

Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



Monterey Bay Branch
January 1996

The ACS Monterey Bay Branch Newsletter

Gray Whale calving in California waters to be topic of January Guest Speakers

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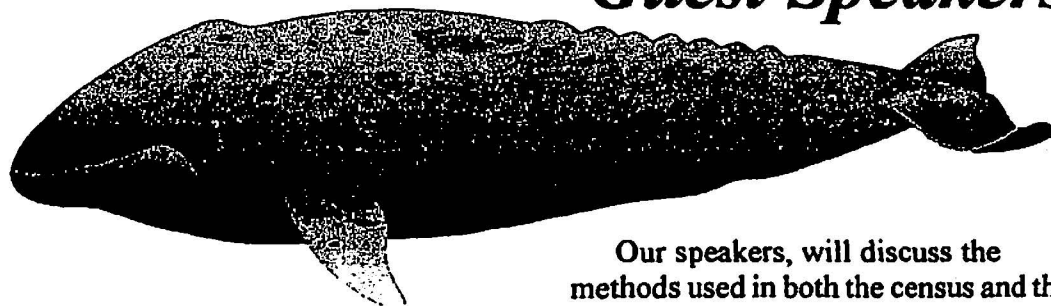
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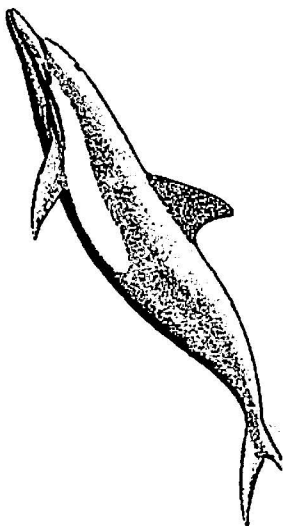


Join us **Thursday, January 25th** at 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall, Monterey Boatworks, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove to hear speakers Kim Sheldon and Janice Waite speak on their recent Gray Whale Studies: calving in California waters and an update on the current and ongoing census.

It came as a surprise to discover that some Gray Whale calves are born during the southbound migration, many hundreds of miles north of the so called "calving" lagoons of Baja California. First appearing off Point Loma, San Diego, sighting in our region became more frequent beginning in 1984. The highest ever count of 36 was reported at the Granite Canyon census site, south of Point Lobos, during the 1993-94 season.

Our speakers, will discuss the methods used in both the census and the search for mother-calf pairs. These include the use of gimbel-mounted 25X power binoculars and offshore aerial surveys to search for Grays migrating outside the usual narrow corridor. The behavior of mother-calf pairs will be described. Is this apparent increase in calf sightings related to a trend towards successively later migration over this 43 year observation period, perhaps tied to decreasing food supplies as the whales' populations reaches carrying capacity? This and other questions will be explored.

Both Kim and Janice are biologists with the National Marine Fisheries Service in Seattle at the National Marine Mammal Laboratory where they currently work on Beluga Whales as well as Grays.



Marine Mammal Sightings:

October 9 - December 21

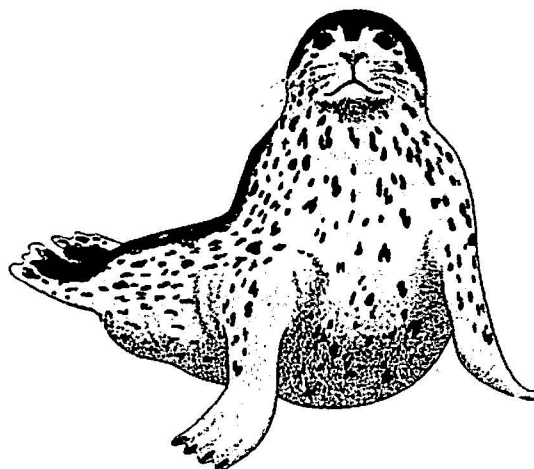
...compiled by *Richard Ternullo*

This sighting report combines two months since there was no December meeting. These are transitional months for large whales in our area and during the early part of the period Blue and Humpback Whales start heading south. By the end of the period Gray Whales are the most numerous large whale in our area. When this newsletter is received, Gray Whale migration through Monterey Bay will be near the peak of the southbound migration. The first confirmed Gray was recorded on November 23 off Granite Creek.

On October 30, Shearwater Journeys had a trip out 100 miles over the Davidson Seamount. This trip produced the first recorded sighting of Sei Whales for at least fifteen years in our area. Also seen was a Sperm Whale and Leatherback Sea Turtle.

Date	Group Size	Location	Observer
Blue Whale			
10/19	2	7.5 mi. WSW Pt. Pinos	MBW
10/28	1	10 mi. SW Cypress Pt.	SHJ
10/29	2	8 mi. W Pt. Lobos	MBW
10/29	2	1 mi. W Asilomar Bch	MBW
10/29	2	1.5 mi. S Pt. Pinos	LO
10/11	1	5 mi. W Pt. Sur	RT
12/3	1	1.5 mi. W Yankee Pt.	HN
Fin Whale			
11/5	4	1.5 mi. W Pt. Lobos	NL
Sei Whale			
10/30	1	92 mi. SSW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
Humpback Whale			
There are 13 sightings of 1-3 individuals scattered from Moss Landing to 50 mi. SSW of Pt. Pinos. All the whales seemed to be heading south. Last sighting was on 12/3.			
Sperm Whale			
10/30	1	89 mi. SSW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
Mink Whale			
10/19	1	1 mi. W Rocky Pt.	MBW
10/29	1	.5 mi. N Monterey Bay Aquarium	SHJ
10/29	1	Near Cypress Pt.	BL
11/5	1	3 mi. W Soberanes Rocks	RT
11/24	1	Near Little Sur River	BL
Killer Whale			
10/19	2	6 mi. WSW Pt. Pinos	MBW
11/21	2	1.5 mi. W Pt. Pinos	TG
12/21	10	1.5 mi. W Yankee Pt.	TL
Bottlenose Dolphin			
10/29	10	.125 mi. W Marina St. Beach	SHJ
11/3	8-10	Off Monterey Beach Hotel	RT
11/29	2	Carmel Beach	AB
12/9	10-12	Del Monte Bch to Soldier's Club	Mobs.
This group was seen over a period of days.			

Risso's Dolphin			
10/1	9 15-20	1 mi. N Pt. Pinos Lt.	OSE
10/27	?	Carmel Bay	HN
10/28	20-40	Near Hopkins Marine Station	DR
Along with unknown numbers of Pacific White-sided Dolphins and Northern Right Whale Dolphins.			
10/29	3-500	3 mi. Off Rocky Pt.	JW
With 100 Northern Right Whale Dolphins			
11/5	6	4 mi. W Pt. Sur	WW
11/11	15	4.5 mi. W Pt. Sur	WW
11/13	750	5 mi. W Yankee Pt.	MBW
With 500 Northern Right Whale Dolphins and 500 Pacific White-sided Dolphins.			
11/16	20	Carmel Bay	HN
11/19	20	Carmel Bay	WW
11/30	200	5.5 mi. W Cypress Pt.	TH
Associated with unknown numbers of Pacific White-sided Dolphins and Northern Right Whale Dolphins.			
12/20	30	Near Pt. Pinos Buoy	LO
Pacific White-sided Dolphin			
10/26	100	11 mi. NW Moss Landing	CD
With 1 Bottlenose Dolphin			
10/29	8	6 mi. W Moss Landing	SHJ
11/6	150	8 mi. W Moss Landing	SHJ
Northern Right Whale Dolphin			
10/26	3	5 mi. W Yankee Pt.	MBW
Associated with 1 Blue Whale.			
10/30	5	90 mi. SSW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
11/1	60	2 mi. W Soberanes Rocks	WW
Associated with 100 Risso's Dolphins			
11/5	15-20	3 mi. SW Cypress Pt.	MBW
11/6	200	9 mi. W Pt. Pinos	SHJ
With 200 Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
Long-beaked Common Dolphin			
10/19	1500	2 mi. N Pt. Pinos Lt.	MBW
There are thirteen sightings of up to 2500 from Hurricane Pt. to Soquel Canyon.			
10/10	2000	6 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	RT
11/26	30	3 mi. W Salinas River	RT
12/7	250	7.5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	RT
Short-beaked Common Dolphin			
10/30	250	93 mi. SSW Pt. Pinos	SHJ



...Continued on page 3

Marine Mammal Sightings (cont.)

Date	Group Size	Location	Observer
Common Dolphin Sp.			
10/9	200	8.5 mi. SW Santa Cruz	CD
10/10	20-30	2 mi. N Otter Pt.	HN
11/15	2-500	2 mi. W Cypress Pt.	TG
11/15	700	2.5 mi. W Yankee Pt.	WW
11/23	75-100	Carmel Bay	LO
11/27	200	3 mi. W Rocky Pt.	JW
12/8	2000	Carmel Bay	JW
12/9	2000	Cypress Pt./Carmel Bay	DR

Dall's Porpoise

There are 15 sightings of up to 25 individuals in groups of 5-10. They were found near canyon edge from Santa Cruz to Pt. Sur.

Harbor Porpoise			
10/29	4-6	1 mi. W Salinas R.	SHJ

Northern Elephant Seal

10/29	1	9 mi. SW Santa Cruz	SHJ
10/29	1	7 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
10/30	1	83 mi. SSW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
11/2	1	4 mi. W Moss Landing	MBW
11/9	1	9 mi. SW Santa Cruz	SHJ

Northern Fur Seal

There are eight sightings, all of single animals, all on 10/30, and all from 85 to 25 mi. SSW of Pt. Pinos. (SHJ)

California Sea Lion

There about 4-500 hauled out on the Monterey harbor breakwater

Harbor Seal

Found along rocky shores from Monterey harbor to Pt. Lobos and in Elkhorn Slough.

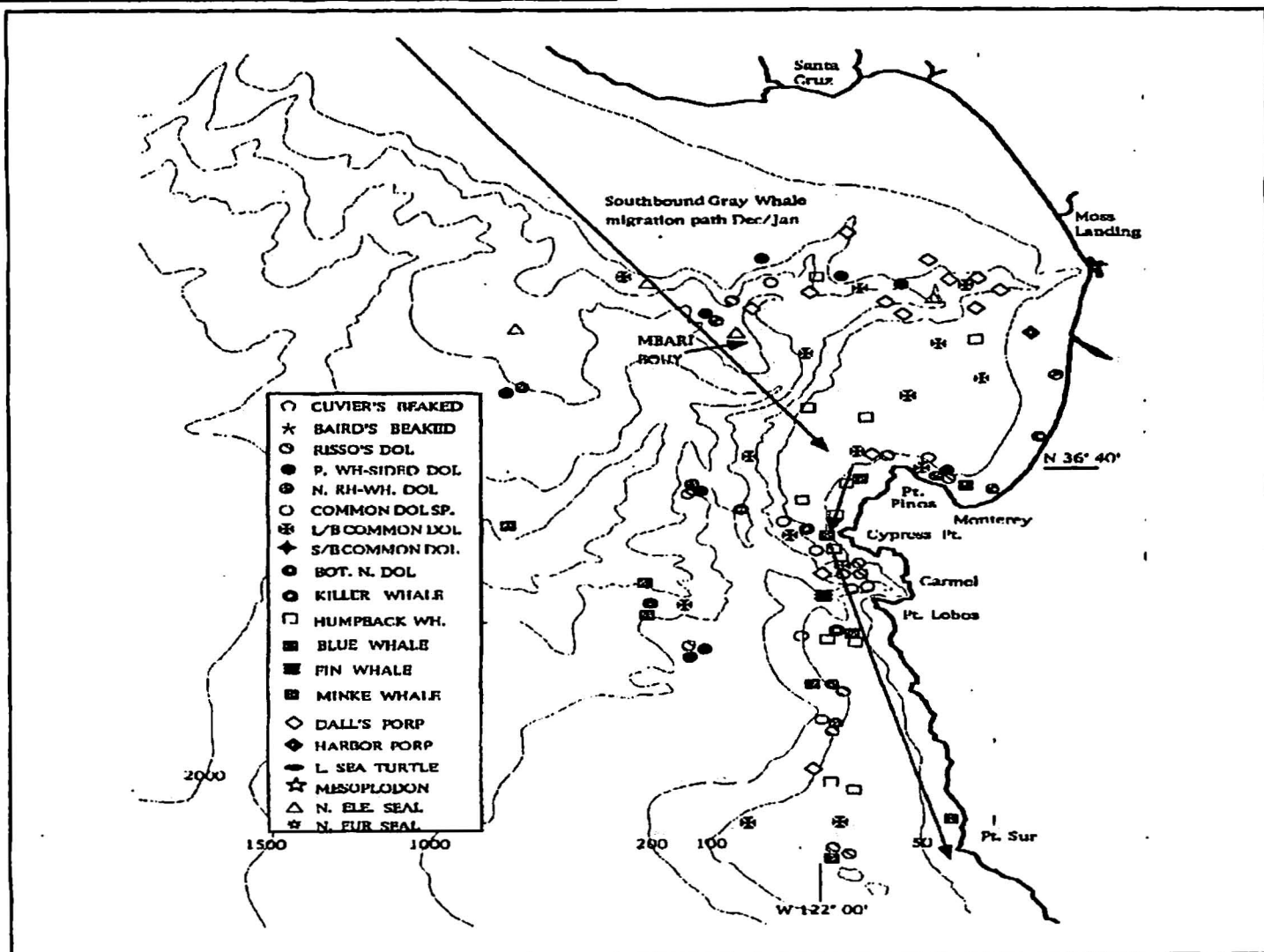
Southern (California) Sea Otter

Found nearshore along the coast associated with kelpbeds, or on the periphery of Monterey Bay without kelpbeds, or in Elkhorn Slough.

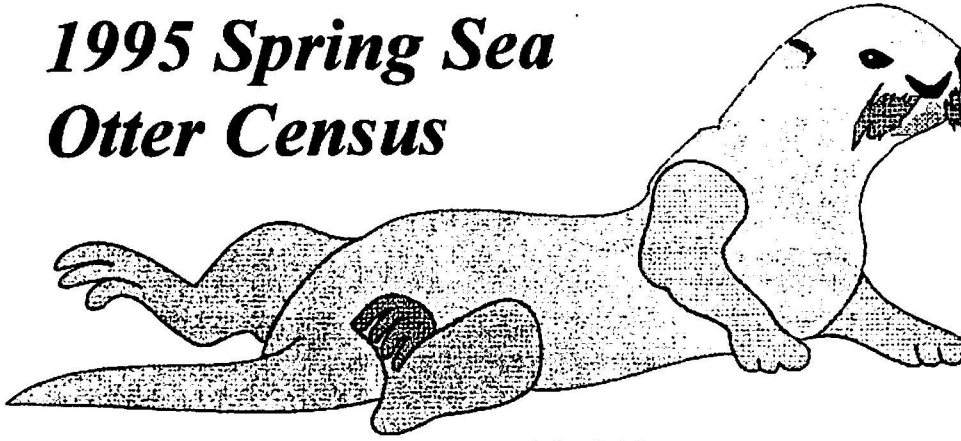
Leatherback Sea Turtle

10/30 1 97 mi. SSW Pt. Pinos

Key to observers: AB=A. Bloxom, CD=C. Dennie, TG=T. Ghio, TJ=T. Jones, NL=N. Lemon, BL=B. Lucas, OSE=Oceanic Society Expeditions, LO=L. Oliver, MBW=Monterey Bay Whalewatch, HN=H. Neece, DR=D. Rookard, SHJ=Shearwater Journeys, RT=T. Ternullo, JW=J. Williamson, WW=W. Williamson



1995 Spring Sea Otter Census



The spring total count of sea otters was 2,277, just 18 animals more than seen in the spring of 1994. This

increase in population size was .76%, rather than the 5+% seen in all previous counts. Following are some probable reasons:

1. Infectious disease (our concerns were highlighted in comments on Southern Sea Otter Recovery Plan, and in attached letter addressing elimination of sea otter mortality program).

2. Shootings - apparently occurring at San Nicolas Island (reported by Brian Hatfield, USFWS) and along the coast south of San Francisco (independently reported by recreational fisherman).

3. Sparse kelp may have led to greater difficulty seeing groups of otters (e.g., otters more dispersed).

4. Otters may also be appearing farther offshore (1 - 1.5km) more often. Some of the shore-based observers noted this, but the aerial portion of the census may not have

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picked this up.

Some probable Friends of the Sea Otter actions follow:

1. Contact Region 1 USFWS director, NBS director, politicians, FSO members and media regarding USFWS and Department of Fish & Game lapse in research monies and fisheries observer programs.

2. Be aware that one low count alone is probably not sufficient reason for alarm. However, now is the time to start making people pay attention to sea otters again, and this census gives us sufficient concern and leverage to use in discussions with the USFWS.

3. Assist in establishment of community college programs (possibly through grants and membership appeals) directed at increasing sea otter carcass salvage and necropsy program.

If anyone has any further suggestions, ideas, or worries, please contact your local Friends of the Sea Otter office.

One of ACS Monterey Bay Chapter's Own to Lead Two Seminars on the Gray Whale

Judson Vandevere will lead two seminars offered through the UC Santa Cruz Extension Program.

The first, "The California Gray Whale and California Sea Otter", will be held Saturday and Sunday, January 13 and 14, 1996 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. It will explore the unique relationship shared each year by the sea otter and migrating Gray whales in the Monterey Bay.

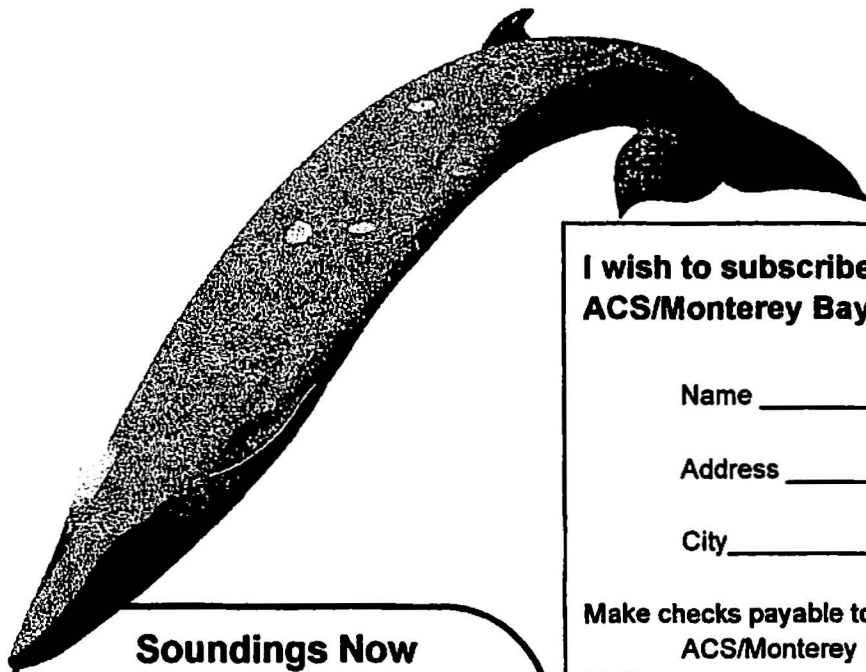
Please wear warm, layered clothing and protect cameras or long-range visual equipment in water-proof cases. On Sunday, also be sure to wear shoes with soles appropriate for boat deck. Bring sack lunches and beverages both days.

The cost for this seminar is \$149, which includes entrance to Monterey Bay Aquarium, boat trip and course materials. Please note: if Sunday's boat trip is rescheduled due to sea conditions a partial refund and partial credit will be given for participant unable to attend class on the "raindate". When registering for this class use class number X456 Biology (2)

The second seminar offered will be a whale watching opportunity at Laguna San Ignacio, the Southern Breeding and Calving Grounds of the Great Grays titled "The Ecosystem of the Gray Whale at Laguna San Ignacio". Enrollment is strictly limited. Class will be held Tuesday, March 5 through Sunday, March 10, 1996 with an optional orientation meeting on Saturday, February 17, 1996 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at UCSC Extension, 3120 De la Cruz Blvd., Santa Clara.

For a brochure describing the program write to: Baja Trip, 740 Front St., Suite 155, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 or call (408) 427-6610.

When registering for this class use number X407.2 Biology (2).



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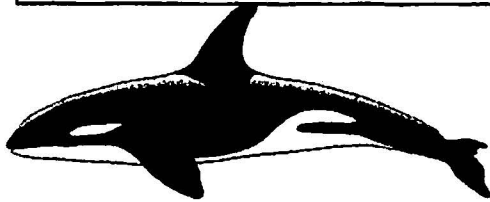
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Alan Baldridge	1132 Seaview Ave	Pacific Grove, 93950	372-3809
Tom Kieckhefer	9433 Holly Hill Dr.	Salinas, 93907	663-3813
Jerry Loomis	Route 1, Box 62	Carmil, 93923	625-2120
Jud Vandevere	93 Via Ventura	Monterey, 93940	372-6001
Steven Webster	210 Asilomar Ave	Pacific Grove, 93950	373-7676 (h), 647-4864 (w)
Tom Williams	23810 Fairfield Pl.	Carmel, 93923	375-5570

Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Maring Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker at 373-2274.



AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Type of Membership, Annual Dues:

<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign	\$45
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Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



Monterey Bay Chapter
February 1996

The ACS Monterey Chapter Newsletter

COMMON DOLPHINS: THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

**Thursday, February 29, 1996
at 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall,
Monterey Boat Works at
Hopkins Marine Station, Libby
Osnes-Erie will speak regarding two
morphologically and genetically distinct
species of common dolphin that occur
off California. The larger, long-beaked
common dolphin (*Delphinus capensis*)
occurs within approximately 150 km of
the coast. The smaller, more pelagic,
short-beaked common dolphin**

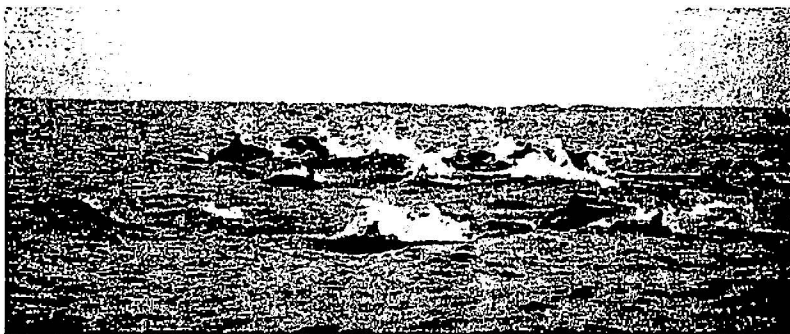
(*Delphinus
delphis*)
occurs from
the coast to
thousands of
kilometers
offshore.
Herds of the
two species do
not appear to
mix.

Historically, common dolphin sightings were reported as uncommon north of Point Conception. Since 1990, however, a persistent period of increased water temperature caused by El Nino has occurred and the common dolphin has become the most numerous cetacean in Monterey Bay. Herd size can range from a few individuals to several thousand. During the part of the year that common dolphins inhabit Monterey Bay (generally from September to May) they appear to "displace" the Pacific white-sided dolphin, which up until several years ago was the most numerous

cetacean in this area year-round.

Our speaker has studied the food habits of these animals by examining stomach contents of stranded and fishery-related specimens. She will discuss the natural history of common dolphins and summarize her research findings. She will also talk about a stranding event that occurred in 1994 involving a great number of common dolphins as well as a recent finding of morbillivirus in a common dolphin that live-stranded near Los Angeles.

Libby is a graduate student at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. She has been the Marine Mammal Stranding Network Coordinator there since 1991. Both ACS-Monterey Bay Chapter and the Earl and Ethel Myers Trust for Marine Biology have supported her research.



President's Message

As incoming President of the Monterey Bay Chapter, I feel I'm walking in the footsteps of some very impressive people. I can only hope to continue to serve our chapter with the same dedication and energy that Jo Guerrero has supplied in the last two years! I really don't think this may be possible as Jo's incredible energy resource and unflagging optimism cannot really be duplicated by any mortal I know. At any rate, in the face of some serious

(continued on page 2)

Tuna-Dolphin: "Deja Vu All Over Again"

...Barbara Britten

(Caveat: For reasons that, it is hoped, are understandable to all ACS members, the opinions expressed below are solely those of the author.)

The ugly, mean and confrontational atmosphere in Congress has been permeating beyond those walls. It has been the hallmark of the deep, angry schism within the marine
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Deja Vu (cont.)

environment community in dealing with the current iteration of the tuna-dolphin controversy and reaching a new low in *ad hominem* attacks and inter-organizational mudslinging.

Beginning over a year ago a few informal meetings were held between some environmental groups and some representatives of Latin American Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission members. The goal was to break the impasse created by the embargo provisions in the MMPA. A draft document was revised and adopted at a special IATTC meeting in Panama, signed on by 12 countries. This "Panama Declaration" is the framework for subsequent legislative initiatives now at issue. The negotiating process and the subsequent actions at the Panama meeting were anathema to a different, and vocal, bloc of other environmental organizations, which condemned the negotiations for being clandestine and the resulting document for being a total betrayal of dolphin protection policy.

There are two bills in the Senate: 1) S 1420, introduced by Sen. Stevens (R, AK) and Sen. Breaux (D, LA); this is being strongly backed by the administration and the groups supporting the Panama Declaration; and 2) S 1460, introduced by Sen. Boxer (D, CA) and Sen. Biden (D, DE) and is strongly supported by the bloc opposing these changes in the MMPA.

There are two bills in the House: 1) the companion to Stevens' is H.R. 2823, introduced by Rep. Gilchrist (R, MD) at the administration's request; and 2) Rep. Miller (D, CA) recently introduced H.R. 2856 and is a counterpart to the Boxer-Biden bill.

The real bottom line lies in the concept and definition of "dolphin safe," in practice, as it applies to the catching methods and labeling of tuna imported into the U.S. for our consumption. Under the 1990 Boxer Amendment to the MMPA, in order to be labeled "dolphin safe," no dolphins could be hunted, chased or set on during the fishing operation. The Stevens-Gilchrist bills lower these "dolphin safe" standards in effect, by allowing the importation into the U.S. of tuna that has been certified by an approved observer to have been caught without causing any dolphin mortality.

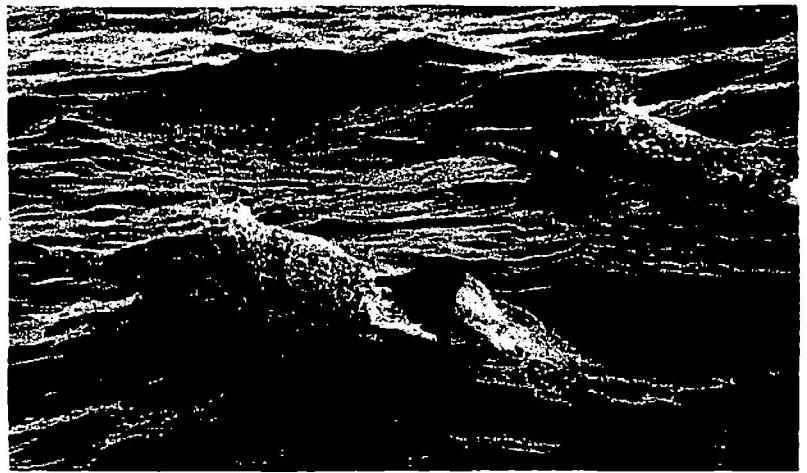
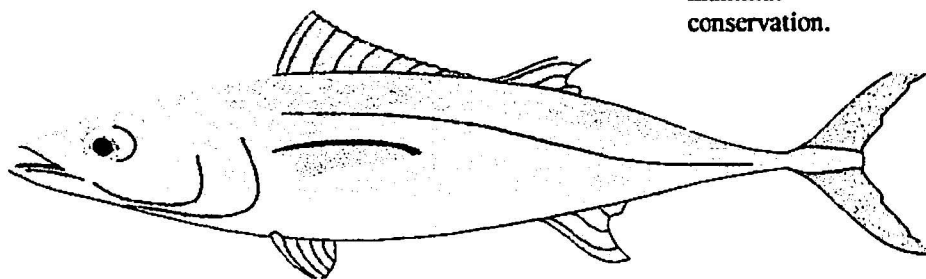
The future is uncertain at best in this season of political turmoil. No hearings have been held; Congressional staffers are not predicting that any will be held in the near future. (That could rapidly change, however.) In the meantime, the bills have few co-sponsors and another special IATTC meeting, scheduled for January's end has been indefinitely postponed.

Copies of these bills are available through your Congress members' offices or at:

Senate Document Room, Room B4, Hart Bldg., U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510

House Document Room, Room B-48, Ford Office Bldg., 300 D St., SW, Washington, DC 20515

See Related Stories on Page 8



President's Message (cont.)

problems she (and, I might add, the other members of the board) managed to keep the chapter viable and an example for other chapters to emulate. Jo deserves the best wishes and thanks for a job very well done.

New members to the board include some new and enthusiastic people. Dan Presser will serve as Vice-President while operating a travel agency. Barbara Oliver, busy doing triple duty as a dental hygienist, wife and assistant to the Captain aboard the Magnum Force, will take over Newsletter Mailing. Finally, Maura Leos, who works in the front office at the Department of Fish and Game, will be Newsletter Editor. Of course, those board members remaining will be contributing their years of experience to guide and advise the new members. I'm sure we can benefit from their long involvement and devotion to the chapter.

Those members who will be continuing to serve are Esta Lee Albright, Beachwatch; Deborah Oglesby, Recording Secretary; Alan Baldridge, Program Chair; Kathy Whittaker, Membership Secretary; Debbie Ternullo, Special Events Coordinator; Jo Guerrero, Past President; and Jerry Loomis, Steven Webster, Tom Williams, Jud Vandever and Tom Kieckhefer as members of the Scientific committee. I would also like to thank all the members of the chapter for their continuing strong support of an organization dedicated to marine mammal conservation.

From the Washington Times - January 13, 1996

Taiwan police find tons of dolphin heads

TAIPEI, Taiwan - Police in Taiwan have found 6 tons of dolphin heads in a freezer and suspect that a giant crime syndicate may have been responsible for killing the animals, state television reported yesterday.

Police said they arrested one man, Wu Wan-chiao, for operating the freezer in the eastern coastal county of Yunlin, but Mr. Wu so far has refused to say where the dolphins came from.

ACS Gray Whale Boat Trip: Another Great Success!!!

...By Thomas R. Keickhefer

It was another wonderful trip. We all arrived at the crack of dawn, got on the Monterey Sportfishing F/V Magnum Force with Skipper Leon Oliver and crew (A.J. Young and Leon's wife Barbara), and within 20 minutes we were watching gray whales off Point Piños. We saw a half dozen pods ranging in size from one to six. We eventually found the pod of six and followed it from a comfortable distance. Close encounters of these whales surfacing, blowing and fluking were spectacular to see. We had a great team of four naturalists, Alan Baldrige, Esta Lee

Albright and Jerry Loomis reporting the activities over the PA system, and myself circulating around the deck with various whale props like baleen, whale lice, and whale sounds.

According to Alan, single migrating gray whales in this region are usually more difficult to follow than whales in larger, social pods. Often, he has witnessed single gray whales being more elusive, possibly because they are more aware of the boat's presence and approach than pre-occupied large groups. However, even the large pod we observed appeared to be silent for we heard nothing but snapping shrimp and a few distant vessels when we shut down our engines and lowered the hydrophone off Point Piños. For the most part, the seas were relatively quiet...then, all of a sudden a distant whale breaching caught the attention of all, either by sight or sound as the loud screams of people yelled, "Breaching whale, over there!" We spent over an hour with these fabulous creatures as they slowly meandered south.

During this time of year, gray whales are typically seen in this area in a pulsing succession and even though they are supposed to be heading south to their breeding ground in the Baja California lagoons, they are often observed

milling for a spell as if in a state of confusion. Whether it is crossing the deep submarine canyon, losing their bearing or simply a meeting point to regroup and socialize for a spell, no one really knows for sure. Whatever the cause, the naturalist team took advantage in stimulating the people on board about the wonder and

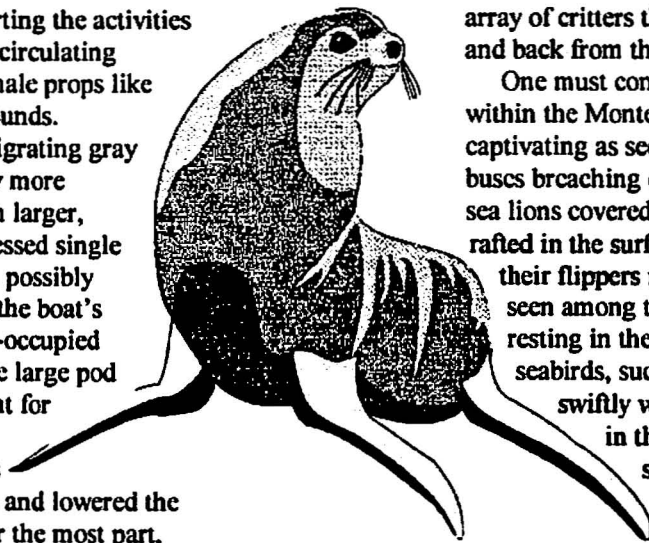
curiosity of how these whales cope and live in their underwater world. Everyone appeared to have a wonderful trip observing the gray whales, and they also enjoyed the diverse

"Male California sea lions covered the Monterey harbor jetty and rafted in the surf, catching thermal energy with their flippers raised high."

array of critters they encountered on our trip out and back from the harbor.

One must confess that all the marine life within the Monterey harbor can be almost as captivating as seeing whales the size of school buses breaching out in the bay. Male California sea lions covered the Monterey harbor jetty and rafted in the surf, catching thermal energy with their flippers raised high. Sea otters were seen among the kelp fronds basking and resting in the available new light, while seabirds, such as rhinoceros auklets flew swiftly with their fluttery wing beats off in the distance. In addition to several species of gull, other birds included numerous northern fulmars, sooty and short-tailed shearwaters, red phalaropes, and pomarine jaegers. I would definitely recommend it to all, especially on a Sunday morning, to get up out of bed and venture out into the bay to see all the spectacular sights it holds. It certainly made my day and I look forward to the next ACS trip!

A special thanks goes to Monterey Sportfishing and Angelo Shake for providing a platform of opportunity for ACS Monterey Bay Chapter to generate funds to fuel local research on marine mammals.



Marine Mammal Sightings: December 1 - January 31

...Compiled by Richard Ternullo



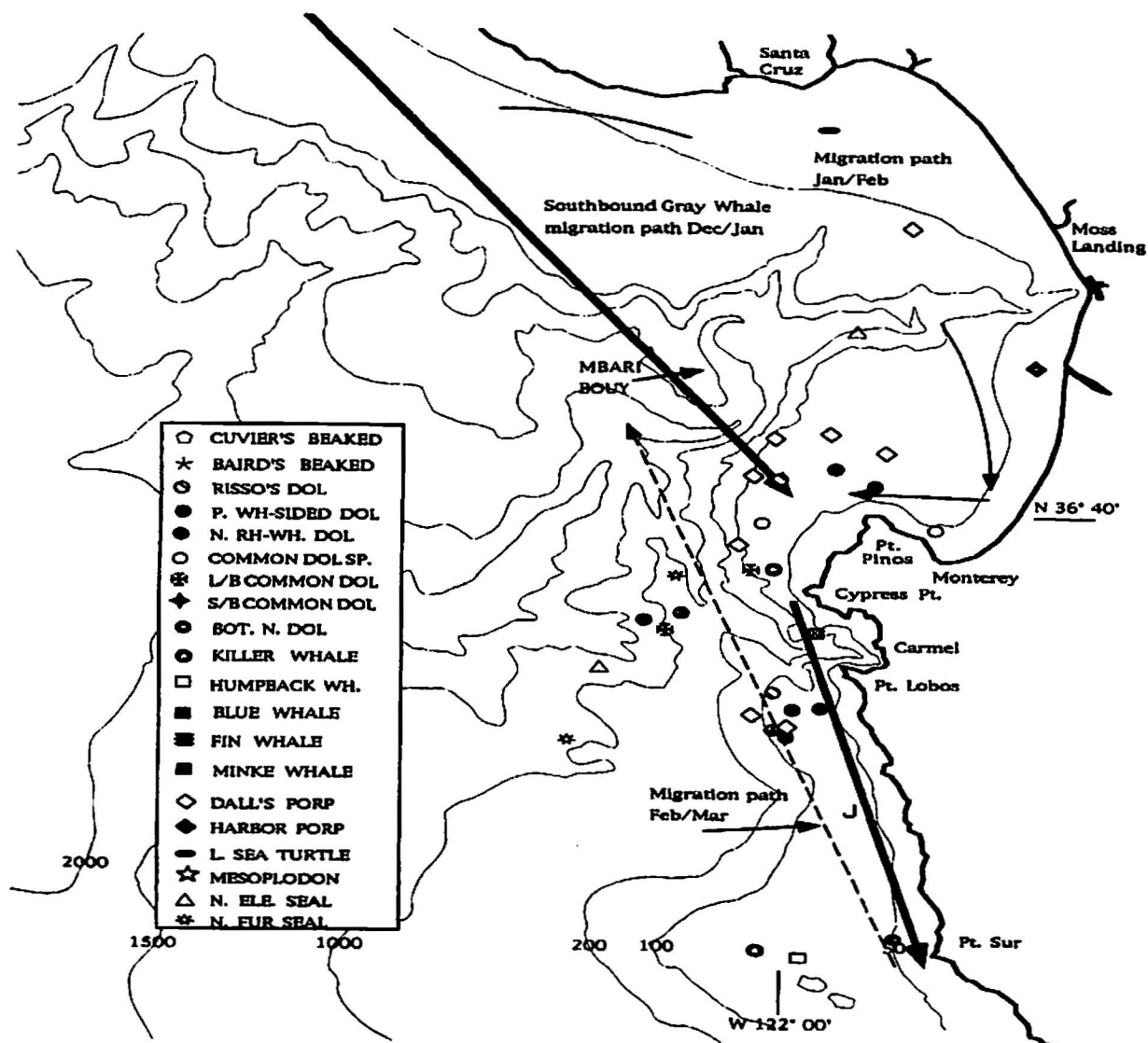
Sightings this reporting period seem to have declined due to winter storms and unsettled weather. Gray whales take center stage as the peak of the southbound migration passes Monterey Bay. These whales are readily seen from shore or boat. Following this peak, the wave of juvenile/immature whales wander southward. At this time whales can be seen at unusual locations in the bay, including Monterey harbor itself.

Among the toothed whales, this is also an excellent time to observe several species of dolphins and porpoise. Viewing is best from a boat, but they can also be seen from shore.

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.	DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
HUMBACK WHALE				NORTHERN RIGHT WHALE DOLPHIN			
1/12	2	4.5 mi. W Pt. Sur	HN	1/5	300+	1.5 mi. W Yankee Pt.	HN
GRAY WHALE				1/13	200	2 mi. W Yankee Pt.	HN
Numbers of southbound gray whales will have declined sharply by the time this newsletter is received, and the first of the northbound whales will be recorded. There is a period of overlap during this time and whales may be seen traveling in both directions. As of 1/25, whales will still be easily seen from shore at Pt. Pinos, Pt. Lobos and along Highway 1.				1/20	150	6 mi. SW Cypress Pt.	NL
MINKE WHALE				1/11	150	1 mi. WSW Pt. Sur	BSOL
12/28	1	1 mi. S Cypress Pt.	SHJ	LONG-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN			
KILLER WHALE				1/1	1	Sea Bright Beach	LOE
12/6	14	Off Granite Creek	JH+	A live stranding of a female that died			
1/15	20-25	4.5 mi. WNW Pt. Sur	HN	1/5	200	1 mi. N Lover's Pt.	HN
1/21	5	3 mi. W Seal Rock	DR	1/13	200	1 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	RT
Killed and consumed 1 young adult California sea lion.				1/14	800	3 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
RISSO'S DOLPHIN				This is the first group of common dolphin that has been recorded by these observers to interact with gray whales in Monterey Bay.			
12/26	50-60	3.5 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	RO	1/15	1000	5.5 mi. W Pt. Lobos	NB
1/11	40-50	2 mi. W Yankee Pt.	SHJ	DALL'S PORPOISE			
COMMON DOLPHIN SP				12/26	20	3 mi. NW Cypress Pt.	LO
1/1	1000	1 mi. Cannery Row	LO	12/26	12	4 mi. W Pt. Pinos	LO
1/1-	500	3 mi. W Pt. Joe	LO	12/29	5+3-4+2	3 mi. NW Moss Landing	RT
PACIFIC WHITE SIDED DOLPHIN				1/9	6	3 mi. W Pt. Pinos	LO
1/7	499	3 mi. W Malpaso Creek	MBW	1/20	6-8	1 mi. N Pt. Pinos Lt.	SHJ
Associated with 200 Northern Right Whale Dolphins and 2 Dall's Porpoise.				1/20	8	3 mi. WSW Pt. Lobos	SHJ
1/19	10	.5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	RT	1/21	20-30	2 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	LO
1/20	200	2 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	SHJ	HARBOR PORPOISE			
1/20	1000-1500	4 mi. W Pt. Lobos	NL	12/29	2	.5 mi. W Pajaro Dunes	SHJ
NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL				NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL			
				12/29	1	6 mi SW Moss Landing	RT
				1/14	1	6 mi. SW Cypress Pt.	SHJ

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.	DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
NORTHERN FUR SEAL				LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLE			
1/14	1	4 mi. W Pt. Lobos	SHJ	8/9	1	2 mi. S Santa Cruz	MK
CALIFORNIA SEA LION				HARBOR SEAL			
About 500-600 are hauled out on the Monterey breakwater.				Found along rocky shores from Monterey harbor to Pt. Lobos and in Elkhorn Slough.			
SOUTHERN (CALIFORNIA) SEA OTTER							
Found almost any where along the outer coast, kelp beds, harbors, Elkhorn Slough, and along the sandy shores within the bay.							
KEY TO OBSERVERS							

BSOL, Big Sur Ornithology Lab, NB, N. Black, JH, J. Hunt et. al., MK, M. Kinzel, NL, N. Lemon, MBW, Monterey Bay Whalewatch, LO, L. Oliver, LOE, L. Osnes-Erie, RO, R. Ortiz, SHJ, Shearwater Journeys, RT, R. Ternullo



DFG's Granite Canyon Marine Pollution Lab Home to Big Eyes

Remember Carol Channing's big eyes? Well that's what these special binoculars look like. Actually, they look more like that little robot guy in the movie "Short Circuit" or that new Virtual Reality Boy.

No matter what they look like, they are fascinating and extremely helpful to the National Marine Fisheries Service Marine Mammal Lab (NMFSMML).

For the last couple of months the NMFSMML in Seattle, Washington has had people here in the Monterey Bay area, Granite Canyon to be exact, doing a population assessment of the grey whale. As well as being an annual event, there is the possibility that the numbers garnered from this study may assist in taking the grey whale OFF the endangered species list. That would make it the first whale to be so unlisted. This is according to Rod Hobbs, one of those NMFSMML people at Granite Canyon.

NMFS has been coming to this area since 1967 to do these population assessments and apparently the population has leveled off in the last ten years. In fact, the grey whale may have even reached its pre 1840's abundance. Over the last 120 years the population has been growing at approximately 3% per year. To obtain this data

they used two observers sitting in observation sheds, each spending five hours counting. This method however was quite imprecise and subjective so now they use two observers at a time who count individually then compare those numbers to get a more precise count.

According to Janice Waite, they started using binoculars with an internal compass and vertical lines enabling observers to get a very accurate location of the whales. Combining the use of binoculars with aerial surveys indicated the whales were traveling a median distance of one to one-and-a-half nautical miles from the shore. Because of budget cut backs, the aerial surveys were in jeopardy so more observations had to be done with binoculars. The method

developed was the "Big Eyes".

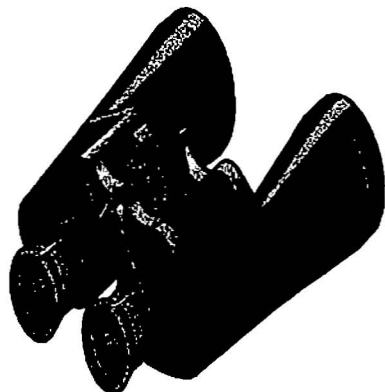
The "Big Eyes" are big 25X binoculars whose accuracy is quite high within three nautical miles. This was good because only 5% of whales pass beyond this distance. The final method developed at Granite Canyon was one shed with standard binoculars and another shed with "Big Eyes", with each observer doing 45 minute watches. The observers used tape recorders to record sightings so a minimum amount of time was spent looking away. Because of this, as well as a way to alleviate the boredom, the observers also had headphones with walkmans to help drown out the sound of each others recording. In January 1995, because of the heavy storms only 39 of the 108 hours spent observing were acceptable. With the new method there was only a 5% discrepancy between records.

There were still, during this last observation, some aerial surveys taking place

in order to verify counts taken with the "Big Eyes." The plane used has high wings to allow good sight with observers at each window. Kim Sheldon, in charge of this aspect of the survey, said they would look for blows, fluke prints (kind of like foot prints) and actual whale bodies as clues that there were whales. During the aerial survey they observed 171 pods for a total of 325 individuals with an average of nine pods per flight. Each pod averaged 1-23 individuals. The largest sightings occurred approximately one nautical mile offshore. Twelve adults with calves were observed.

More calves are being observed on the southbound migration leading biologists to believe the females are waiting longer to migrate south. This may be related to a greater abundance of whales and a higher competition for food. The criteria for identifying calves consists of the position of the animal in relation to the larger whale (calves have a tendency to swim behind the fin with their flukes riding on the mother's flukes), the size of the animal and the coloration (calves are darker lacking barnacle clusters).

Because of these methods of observing NMFSMML has been able to make several assumptions. The grey whale is reaching an abundance not seen since before the great whaling days, grey whales migrate not much more than three nautical miles offshore and Baja California is not necessarily the "calving area" it used to be with more births occurring farther north.



HARBOR PORPOISE CALF LIVE-STRANDING IN PACIFIC GROVE

...Libby Osnes-Erie

Marine Mammal Stranding Network Coordinator, Moss Landing Marine Labs

It was late morning, Friday, June 9, when I got a call at my home in Monterey. Dion Oxman from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) was calling to say someone had reported a baby dolphin in a tide pool in Pacific Grove. I quickly got my cetacean stranding equipment (foam, sheets, buckets, towels, boots, etc.) together and off I went. I pulled into a turnoff near the Pacific Grove golf course and saw a man out on some rocks looking down so I started walking toward him. A young lady seated on a bench got up and asked if I was from Moss Landing Marine Labs and then led me to where the man was standing. They pointed down and said, "Is that a shark or a dolphin?" Imagine my amazement when I looked down and saw a tiny little harbor porpoise in a tidepool. The tidepool was just the right size and the safest place for her to be at the time. After checking her over, I explained to them that it was a newborn, female, harbor porpoise. She was probably only a day or two old. She still had fetal folds, the umbilicus was attached, and she had a row of little whiskers on each side of her rostrum. She was 2-1/2 feet long and weighed 19 pounds.

She had been found in the tide pool by a young boy named Tin (the young lady's brother). Tin's sister and her friend had gone to the Monterey Bay Aquarium and reported the stranding. Tin, his other sister, and another gentleman, diligently watched over the porpoise. The aquarium contacted our marine mammal stranding network at MLML and that is where I came in.

(Continued on Page 9)



Tuna Commission Cancels Annual Meeting! No Dolphin Death Deal; No Meeting

January 11, 1996

In an unprecedented move, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) last week indefinitely postponed its annual meeting, apparently in response to the refusal of the U.S. Congress to weaken dolphin protection laws.

"The IATTC expected Congress to roll over and allow dolphin-deadly tuna to be sold in the United States," stated Mark J. Palmer, Program Associate of Earth Island Institute's International Marine Mammal Project. "They were wrong. The American public will not stand for dead dolphins in the name of free trade."

The IATTC is an international body, dominated by the fishing industry, that regulates tuna fishing in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP), a stretch of water from southern California to the coast of Peru. A number of countries fish for tuna in this area; since 1962, they have cooperated through the IATTC in establishing tuna quotas. But the IATTC took no action on dolphin deaths - years during which over 7 million dolphins died caused by deliberate drowning in tuna purse seine nets in the ETP. Finally, in 1993, the IATTC reluctantly, in response to U.S. pressure, set up a Dolphin Conservation Program.

But since the new program still allows the chasing, harassing, encircling, catching and killing of dolphins by the tuna fishing boats, the IATTC sought to pressure the United States into rescinding its dolphin protection laws with the "Panama Declaration," signed by 12 fishing nations last October.

The Panama Declaration called on the U.S. Congress to allow importation of dolphin-deadly tuna, now embargoed under U.S. marine mammal laws. Furthermore, the Declaration called on the U.S. Congress to change the federal definition of "Dolphin Safe" on tuna cans to fool U.S. consumers. Under the Panama deal, tuna that is caught by chasing, harassing, and encircling dolphins with mile-long purse seine nets could be considered "dolphin safe" if no dolphins were "observed" killed outright. Anti-environmental Senators Ted Stevens (R-AK) and John Breaux (D-LA) introduced S 1420 (H.R. 2823 in the House) to implement the Panama Declaration.

But environmental and animal welfare groups, led by Earth Island Institute, the Humane Society of the U.S. Defenders of Wildlife, and Sierra Club, protested, noting that many dolphins die in nets or from stress of capture and internal injuries, but are never "observed" as part of the dolphin kill. Furthermore, the new definition allows cheating by fishing boats through mixing of the newly defined "dolphin safe" and dolphin unsafe tuna on board fishing vessels. The Panama Dolphin Death Deal further relinquishes all U.S. enforcement in favor of voluntary enforcement of dolphin kill quotas by individual fishing nations.

Mass death of dolphins puzzles Mauritians

January 8, 1996

MOUAKCHOTT, Jan. 8 (Reuter) The discovery of the decomposing bodies of more than 100 dolphins on the Mauritania coast has puzzled scientists and fishermen in the Arab African country.

Fishermen came across the macabre scene on the coastal stretch between the capital Noakchott and Nouadhibou.

Local newspapers have dished out horror tales suggesting drag nets from foreign trawlers fishing for sharks killed the dolphins, washed ashore in the last week of December.

"Dolphin carcasses line the beach for nearly three kilometers," wrote the Mauritanie-Nouvelles in a report from the fishing village of Tiliwitt. "On close examination it appears some of the dolphins had not even been fully grown. By their side, nets and cords which probably dragged them either after their death or as they struggled in agony to get back into the sea. A futile struggle for life," the newspaper added.

Government scientists have discounted the drag net theory, suggesting a virus
(continued on Page 8)

Dolphin Alert

Republicans in Congress, with the Wise-Use Movement and renegade foreign tuna fishermen, are set to roll back federal dolphin protections.

Today, only tuna caught by methods that do not kill or injure dolphins is allowed to be sold in the United States. But new legislation would repeal the ban on import and sale of dolphin death tuna, and would even change the legal definition of "dolphin safe" to allow chasing, harassing, and encirclement of dolphins, as long as no dolphins were "observed" killed outright in the nets. But many dolphins die in the mile-long nets without being observed, and the definition, designed to fool consumers, invites cheating.

This legislation was developed by Mexico in conjunction with free trade advocates in the Clinton Administration and anti-environmental members of Congress. Free trade at the expense of dead dolphins is not a good deal.

CALL, FAX AND WRITE YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Urge them to **OPPOSE** S. 1420 and H.R. 2823, the Steven/White House/Wise-Use Movement Dolphin Death Act!

Urge them to **SUPPORT** the Boxer/Biden/Miller Dolphin Protection Act (S. 1460 and H.R. 2856), which maintains existing dolphin protections. Urge them to co-sponsor the Dolphin Protection Act, S. 1460 and H.R. 2856.

Time is short! Call today!! Thank you for your help!

Senator _____	Rep. _____
U.S. Senate	U.S. House of Representatives
Senator Office Building	House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510	Washington, DC 20510

Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

For further information, call Earth Island Institute (415) 788-3666

Tuna Commission Cancels Meeting (cont.)

Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Joseph Biden (D-DE) have introduced legislation in the Senate, S 1460 (H.R. 2856 by Rep., George Miller (D-CA) in the House) which retains the current dolphin-safe definition, retains the embargo against dolphin-unsafe tuna, and rewards fishermen who fish in a dolphin safe manner by allowing importation of their tuna.

The IATTC will not re-schedule their annual meeting until "resolution of the circumstances causing the delay of the meeting..." As far as environmentalists are concerned, that could be forever.

"The only acceptable solution is for all tuna-fishing nations to abandon the deadly practice of setting purse seine nets around schools of dolphins," commented David Phillips, Director of Earth Island Institute's International Marine Mammal Project. "More than 7 million dolphins have been deliberately drowned by the greedy tuna fishermen, while the IATTC took no action. This technology must be eradicated, just as the world community recently banned the use of drift nets on the high seas."

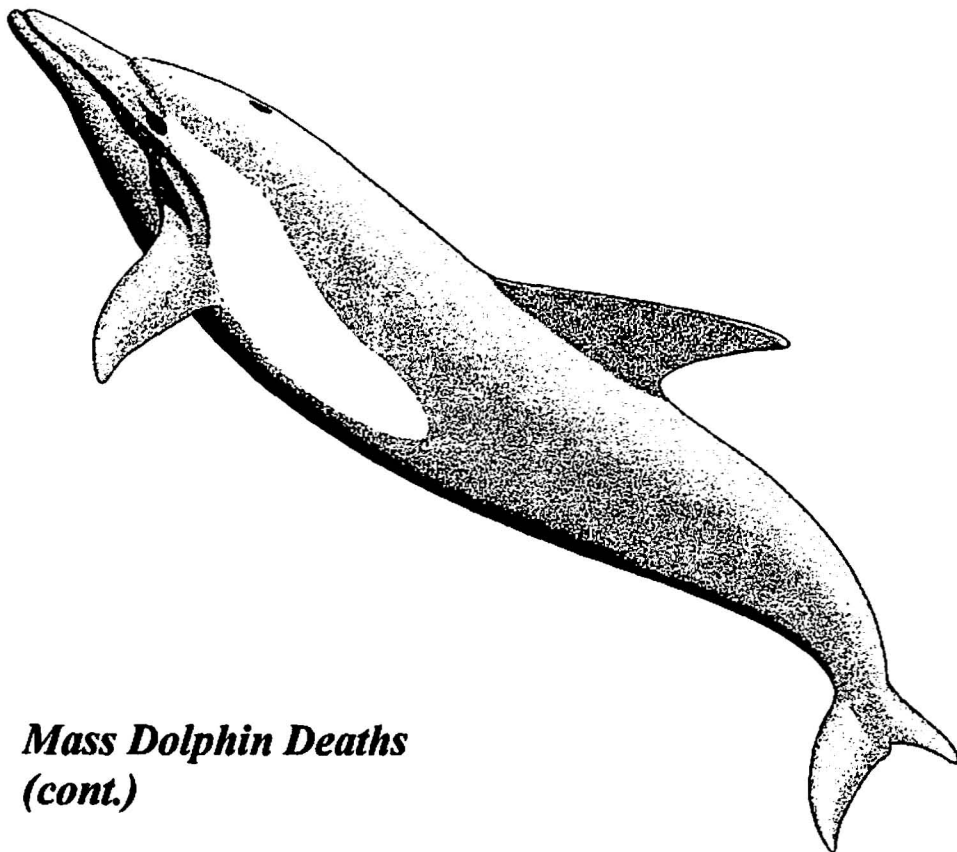
(Earth Island Institute is a nonprofit environmental protection organization that has been active in marine mammal conservation since 1984. The International Marine Mammal Project, a project of Earth Island Institute, works to protect whales, dolphins and other marine mammals around the world. VIDEO AVAILABLE: Broadcast quality video of dolphins in the wild and the effects of tuna nets on dolphins is available.)

ACS WISH LIST

ACS Monterey Bay Chapter is in desperate need of two items. The first is a computer! Preferably one that has Email and word processing capabilities (an old 286 or SE would be wonderful). The second item is a modem for said Email.

And speaking of high tech stuff and Email and surfing the net and speeding down the information highway, we now have access to a web page. The address is:

[HTTP://WWW.REDSHIFT.COM/~ESTARR/ACS](http://WWW.REDSHIFT.COM/~ESTARR/ACS)



Mass Dolphin Deaths (cont.)

may have killed the dolphins which form part of the rich marine life of Mauritania's Atlantic waters.

But even the scientists wonder why such a virus spared fish, birds or other animals depending on the sea for food.

"No lesions characteristic of mortal wounds were noticed on the animals," said Sidi el Moktar Ahmed Taleb, director of the National Oceanic and Fisheries Research Center (CNROP).

"An autopsy was carried out on the body of one of the dolphins, which was in an advanced stage of decomposition," Ahmed Taleb said. "Some unusual lesions were found in the digestive tube. But the stomach was empty, suggesting that the animal had not fed for some days."

Parasitic infections were also found in the stomach by centre researchers who braved bad weather to carry out examinations on other bodies on the beach and at sea.

The centre is still carrying out further examinations while some specimens have been sent to the University of Rotterdam

for more extensive analysis. Fishermen in the area have been pondering the tragedy and have offered probable causes ranging from drag nets to poisoned seaweed or mullets which abound there. But a majority have been categorical in pointing a finger at drag nets.

An elderly local fisherman, contradicting the scientists, told the newspaper that the dolphins must have been killed by "turning nets" because there were scratches on their bodies.

Fishermen in the area are known to have a special relationship with dolphins who help point them to where to find large colonies of mullet, on which the dolphins feed.

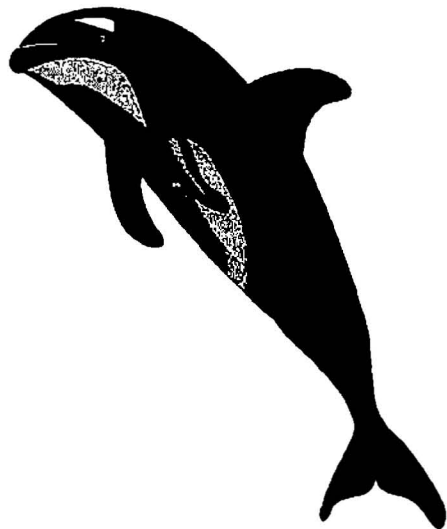
Other fishermen speculated shark hunters were the culprits. Sharks are sought for their fins which are delicacies in restaurants around the globe. The rest of their carcasses are thrown back into the sea, possibly poisoning the water. Mauritians, notably fishermen, consider dolphins as part of their national patrimony and the mass deaths have sent a shockwave through fishing communities in the country.

Stranded Porpoise in P.G. (cont.)

I asked them to continue watching her and then went to a pay phone and made several calls including contacting Long Marine Lab (LML) in Santa Cruz and the Monterey County S.P.C.A. Dr. Dave Casper (LML) contacted Marine World Africa U.S.A. who agreed to take the porpoise. Because it is best to transport a porpoise or dolphin in water, member's of Long Marine Lab's rescue team - Dr. Dave Casper, Billy Hurley, Dave Silver, and Lindsay Clark - drove down to Pacific Grove to transport her in a fiberglass tub on the back of their flatbed truck.

My phone calls completed, I returned to the stranding site. MLML graduate student Michelle Lander was there waiting for me and together we shaded the tidepool by placing a sheet over it. Pacific Grove police officer Hector Gonzalez and S.P.C.A. Humane Officer Paulette Parker came by to see if they could be of assistance. It had been a busy morning for Paulette as she had three pinnipeds in her van at the time, so she left to take them to the SPCA. While waiting for the team from LML to come I kept track of the porpoise's respiration rate. Because her heart rate would speed up and she held her breath when being handled I only touched her occasionally as she seemed to be doing okay.

When LML's rescue team arrived, the porpoise was quickly placed in the foam-lined tub with water and was soon on her way to Marine World. Three members rode up to Vallejo on the flatbed taking care of the porpoise while the driver maneuvered through rush-hour traffic. She almost died two times on the way up but they were able to revive her.



She was put into the "medical" pool at Marine World and a special floating sling was made to support her in the water. She was given medication and a formula was created and she was tube fed. She was named "Pebble" and seemed to adapt to her human companions. Her daily activity level fluctuated between being lethargic and resting off to the side of the pool to swimming on her own beside a person. Then on June 15, in the early morning, she took a turn for the worse and died. A necropsy revealed that her death was caused by pseudomonas, a bacteria that was found in her lungs.

Individual cetacean strandings can be attributed to a wide variety of factors. Although returning live-stranded animals to sea is often thought by the general public and some groups to be the correct thing to do, it is often not the most humane response. Many stranded animals are unhealthy and pushing these animals out to sea again can prolong their pain and suffering. They will often restrand or drown and wash up on a beach. If you find a live-stranded cetacean, report it as soon as possible to the proper agency for that area: Monterey County - Monterey County S.P.C.A. (373-2631) and Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (755-8650); Santa Cruz County - Long Marine Lab (459-2883) and The Marine Mammal Center (415-289-7325). Until help arrives, the animal's skin should be kept moist, being careful not to get water into the blowhole. Noise and activity should be kept at a minimum to reduce stress to the animal.

Monterey Bay Chapter's Board Members for 1996

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Jerry Loomis	Rout 1, Box 62	Carmel, 93923	625-2120
Jud Vandevere	93 Via Ventura	Monterey, 93940	372-6001
Steven Webster	210 Asilomar Ave.	Pacific Grove, 93950	373-7676(h), 647-4864(w)
Tom Williams	2381 Fairfield Pl.	Carmel, 93923	375-5570

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Types of Memberships, Annual Dues

<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription
(\$500)	(\$250)	(\$75)	(\$35)	(\$45)	(\$45)	(\$25)	\$15/12 issues

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Signature _____

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Chapter: #24 Monterey

For Subscriptions Make Checks Payable to ACS/Monterey Bay Chapter
Send to PO Box HE, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational, and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Marine Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker, 373-2274.

Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



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Harbor Seals and Pollutants Along the Pacific Coast

On Thursday, March 28, 1996, at 7:30 p.m. the ACS Monterey Bay Chapter will host Doreen G. Moser from Moss Landing Marine Labs. Doreen, a past recipient of one of ACS' research grants, will speak about trace elements and organochlorine concentrations in harbor seals along the Pacific coast.

Contaminants such as pesticides and trace elements can enter the marine ecosystem through human-related activities. These contaminants may accumulate in marine biota. Because marine mammals are at the top of the food chain they may accumulate high pollutant levels that can cause physiological disorders. Harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*) inhabit coastal areas from Alaska to Baja California. Elevated pollutant levels in harbor seals may

decrease reproduction or discolor fur. Harbor seals in Elkhorn Slough have low reproductive rates. Although there are many factors that affect pupping location, pollutant levels can contribute to lower pupping success. Contaminant and reproductive rates of harbor seals from Elkhorn Slough were compared to other areas along the Pacific coast with greater pupping rates. Overall, contaminant levels were relatively low among these areas. Therefore, low reproductive rates in Elkhorn slough were attributed to other factors, such as disturbance or population

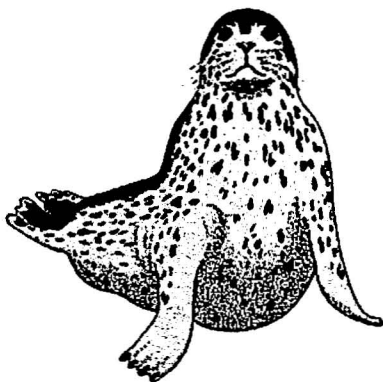
composition.

In San Francisco Bay, harbor seals have been documented with red fur. This red pelage rarely occurs elsewhere. Blood, blubber, and hair samples were collected from live harbor seals in Elkhorn Slough and Channel Islands, CA, Umpqua River, OR, and Grays Harbor, WA. Hair, liver, and muscle samples were collected from red and normal pelage seals from San Francisco Bay, California. Blood and blubber samples were analyzed for organochlorines, as well as other tissue samples analyzed for trace elements. It

was previously suggested that iron may accumulate on the hair and oxidize or rust. Hair samples from red and normal pelage seals had similar Fe (iron) concentrations. These samples were also analyzed on an X-ray SEM and their elemental composition also was similar. Red hair shafts had irregular cuticle scaling. However, other elements and hair structure had not been examined. Element levels were

similar between red and normal pelage harbor seals, yet the hair structure appeared different between these two pelage types. Red pelage may not be caused by significant FE accumulation but from an element imbalance such as Ni (nickel) or a characteristic of the hair shaft that allows Fe and other elements to adhere and oxidize.

Doreen will be at ACS Monterey Bay Chapter's monthly meeting at Hopkins Marine Station's Lecture Forum to discuss these questions and findings. Thursday, March 28, 1996 at 7:30 p.m.



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ACS Monterey Bay Chapter Welcomes New Members!

A big welcome and hello to:

Ruth S. Ferdinand of Pebble Beach
Judy & John Hubbard of Watsonville
Mary Heighton of Carmel
John Sander of Pacific Grove
Barbara D. Utter of Pacific Grove
and
Jenny Pursell & Mike Tobin

Environmental "leftovers": Many Stalelated Decisions Face 104th Congress's Second Session

A long-delayed House hearing on the two competing versions of the MMPA amendments addressing the tuna/dolphin issue and the Panama Declaration is scheduled for the end of February. The administration-backed Gilchrest bill, H.R. 2833 and the Miller bill, H.R. 2856, companion to the Boxer/Biden bill are to be considered. Both sides are predicting ultimate passage of their favorite bills. However, it is not certain that any bill can be referred out of the subcommittee to the full Resources Committee and thence to the House floor. The fate of both bills in the Senate is equally uncertain. Response from the White House and eleven other countries affected, is uncertain as well.

Endangered Species Act: With little fanfare or publicity an even more draconian proposed reauthorization bill than the stalled Gorton bill in the Senate, or the Young/Pombo bill in the House (H.R. 2275) may re-surface soon. This bill, S 1364, was authored by freshman Sen. Dirk Kempthorne (R, ID). It will have dire effects on marine species and could be moved quickly through the Subcommittee on Drinking Water, Fisheries, and Wildlife of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, since Kempthorne is the subcommittee chair. Several of the bill's co-sponsors are on that full committee, chaired by the Republican environmental heroes, Sen. John Chafee, (R, RI).

The bill would abolish all distinctions between the threatened or endangered status of sub-species or distinct populations of stocks such as Pacific or Atlantic salmon sub-species or the distinct population of western Alaska Steller sea lions. It would also overturn the recent extremely important Supreme Court

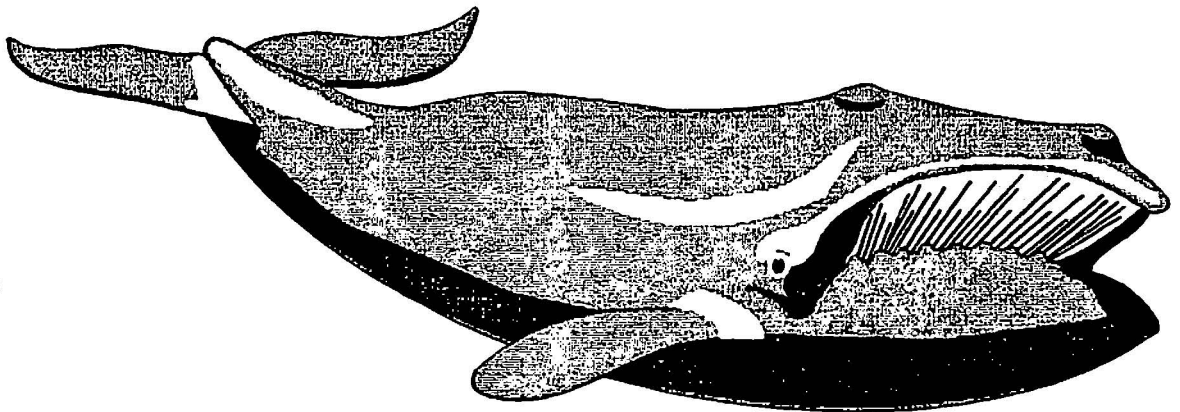
decision upholding one of the fundamental provisions of the ESA, habitat preservation and protection. Further, in the event of a conflict between species conservation and human use of the same shared habitat, any conservation efforts must be reduced by the Secretary of the Interior. For example, protecting manatees in Florida waters might fall before the interests of motorboats. Sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico might conflict with the interests of the shrimp fishing industry.

Threat to National Wildlife Refuges: Not content with "just" trying to open up the Arctic Wildlife Refuge (ANWAR), Rep. Don Young (R, AK), chair of the House Resources Committee, has succeeded in getting H.R. 1675 through that committee and is seeking a chance to move it to the floor. Entitled the "National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act," it can put at risk all 508 refuges sited in the 50 states. Since 1903, these refuges have played a major role in protecting and preserving a wide range of

diverse ecosystems and habitats. The bill seeks to "improve" the refuge system by considerably reducing and limiting the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Service and broadening the scope of permissible activities such as hunting, power boating, jet skiing and other such activities.

It will not be humanly possible for Congress to tackle the enormous workload of legislation the House and Senate leaders have outlined for this session, especially in light of the political climate of the elections and the severely foreshortened time frame in which to tackle all these issues. It will be very difficult to keep track of the status of individual bills. Let us hope that some of them never make it to the floor and fade away on December 31st.

(Barbara Britten was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years. She was recently appointed by President Clinton as the sole environmentalist represented on the 4-member U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Barbara lives in Davis.)



...and this from *Oryx*, 30 (1) 1996.

Southern right whale breeding area found

A large breeding ground for the endangered southern right whale (*Balaena glacialis*) has been discovered near the Auckland Islands, about 500 km south of New Zealand. A team of biologists counted 96 whales, which could be the largest single breeding aggregation of this species anywhere in the world.

Source: *New Scientist*, 2 September 1995, 11.

SEA SHEPHERD SAVES SEATTLE'S SEA LIONS

*Group's Offer Must Legally Be
Considered by State Government*

Seattle, WA – On January 26, 1996, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society formally submitted a viable alternative to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in order to prevent the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) from killing any sea lions at the Ballard Locks this season.

"Sea Shepherd has offered to pay this year's costs of temporarily housing and immediate translocation of sea lions to California," says Michael Kundu, Sea Shepherd's Pacific Northwest Coordinator. "Accordingly, we've also obtained legal permission from the San Francisco Bay Commission to return these sea lions to California. We are prepared to take Hondo and his buddies home."

In their January 1995 "Letter of Authorization" to the WDFW, NMFS dictated that the agency must not kill sea lions if holding facilities and the appropriate funding is available. "The WDFW has already indicated that housing space is available at the Point Defiance Zoo in Tacoma, and NMFS has the proper truck which was used in translocation efforts in 1990 and 1994. Of course the sea lions will return, but we are prepared to bring them right back to California again. We have been very patient and respectful of the expensive-yet-ineffective bureaucratic process up to now, alternatively, our proposal will cost the taxpayer nothing. We've offered to pay for the short-term housing and for the transport - so what's the delay?" asked Lisa Distefano, Director of International Operations for Sea Shepherd. "Like most people in Seattle, we want this victory for Hondo and his buddies, but most importantly, we want this victory for the preservation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act."

"WDFW is legally prohibited from killing any sea lions until they meet all NMFS terms and conditions, and attempt all feasible non-lethal alternatives. From a legal standpoint, the WDFW is obligated to address our proposal," asserts Kundu.

Sea Shepherd anticipated that the relocation of Ballard's sea lions will give the
(continued on page 7)

Common Dolphins, the Long and Short of It



Guest speaker, Libby Osnes-Erie presented a summary of some of the work that she and other researchers have been doing on the long-beaked and short-beaked common dolphins. Libby reviewed their distribution, species determination studies, stranding events, a particular virus found in some dolphins, and food habits.

Common dolphins (both species) are widespread in their distribution with the short-beaked common dolphin found farther off-shore than the long-beaked common dolphin. Libby pointed out that the two species do not mix company and separate groups may be found numbering from just a few individuals up to groups containing over 1,000 animals. These animals will ride the bow wakes of boats as well as the wakes of whales.

It was not clear whether the two species were indeed two different species until two studies were conducted to determine if this was the case. In 1991, a study was conducted using morphological characteristics, both externally and internally, to separate the two species. Physical differences can be seen in the outward appearance of the two dolphins. Another study, conducted the following year, approached the answer to the question from a genetic standpoint. The major conclusion of that study was that indeed there is a genetic difference in the two dolphins.

Stranding events have been well documented over the years with a recent one highlighted in Libby's talk. An individual, identified as

"Catalina Bob" made a splash in the news media. Catalina Bob became somewhat of a famous celebrity for a

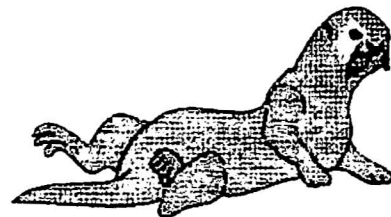
short period of time as concerned researchers got him back on track. This was not without some momentary setbacks as our hero Bob seemed to have a mind of his own and a decided opinion about his own recovery. Another dolphin that was rescued at about the same time was named "Malibu Bob". When the time came to finally release both dolphins, the decision was made to send both Bobs off together as company for each other. But, alas, this was not to be. Malibu Bob struck out alone for Catalina, while our hero Catalina Bob swam off into the sunset towards Malibu.

Another interesting point that Libby explored (through her studies on strandings) was that the virus MORBILLIVIRUS has been found in some animals. This virus is one that affects many kinds of pinnipeds and cetaceans.

To conclude her presentation, Libby covered the food habits of both species of common dolphin based upon work she did using stomach contents. Along with the normal food items, such as fish, squid, and octopus, items such as balloons, paper, and algae were found. Analysis of stomach contents to identify the species of fish employed otolith (ear bones) identification. Squid and octopus were identified using their beaks (stiff upper lip so to speak). Fish can be identified down to genera and in her work with the two species of common dolphin, Libby was able to identify the fish down to the species level using the distinctive shape of the otoliths.

Eleven Sea Otters Dead - Why?

Dr. Lynn Creekmore
(Source - Sea Otter Assistance Package #54 -
Friends of the Sea Otter)



In July of 1995, 11 southern sea otters were found sick or dead in Monterey County, California. The otter mortalities occurred over a short period of time, July 16-25, in

(continued on page 7)

Marine Mammal Sightings: January 28 - February 25

... compiled by Richard Ternullo

Terrible weather during the reporting period kept most boats and people in port or indoors, limiting sightings. Still, observations of dolphins and porpoise seemed low and group size also seemed low for this time of the year.

The gray whale migration has now reversed and the first northbound whale was recorded on January 3. For shoreside views of these whales I would recommend Hurricane Point and Point Lobos along Highway 1. By next month the migration will consist of mothers and calves. It will take close inspection of kelpbeds inshore to find them as they avoid predators, particularly killer whales.

Look forward to next month for the beginning of the upwelling phase of the oceanic seasons. This will be marked by an increase in northwest winds, decreased water clarity, and strong vertical and horizontal mixing that stimulates the food chain.

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
GRAY WHALE			

By the time this newsletter arrives, all whales will be northbound. The best place to see these whales from the shore would be from Hurricane Pt., Granite Creek, or Pt. Lobos. The best chance for a closer view would be by boat, but beware of spring winds.

MINKE WHALE			
2/2	1	.5 mi. S Cypress Pt.	WW
2/10	1	.5 mi. N Pt. Pinos	RG

HEILER WHALE			
1/28	4	3 mi. W Cypress Pt.	WW
1/30	5	Otter Pt. to Lover's Pt. Chasing a pinniped	C&JS
2/9	5-6	Off Davenport	JB

RISSE'S DOLPHIN			
2/10	50-60	1 mi. S Cypress Pt.	HN
2/13	65	.5 mi. W Pt. Sur	BSOL
2/13	20	3.5 mi. W Pt. Joe	LO
2/14	10-12	.25 mi. N Monterey Bay Aquarium	RT
2/17	10-12	1.5 mi. S Cypress Pt.	JW

Harassing a gray whale, stopped the whales and may have been biting

COMMON DOLPHIN SP			
2/7	6-8	1 mi. N Otter Pt.	HN
2/25	250	Near Pt. Pinos Bouy	WW

PINK-BLANKET COMMON DOLPHIN			
1/29	1	Lover's Pt.	LOE

A live stranding of an adult male that soon died. Cause of death was apparently a lymphosarcoma

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
PACIFIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN			
2/1	15	4mi. NW Pt. Pinos	HN
2/2	8	3.5 mi. SW Cypress Pt.	MBW
2/3	50	1 mi. N Otter Pt.	JW
2/10	150	4.5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	SHJ

DALE'S PORPOISE			
1/28	6-8	2.5 mi. S Cypress Pt.	MBW
2.2	6-8	3 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	MBW
2/7	6	7 mi. W Moss Landing	MBW
2/13	20	3 mi. W Pt. Pinos	LO
2/23	6-8	4 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	RT
2/25	10	3/5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	JW

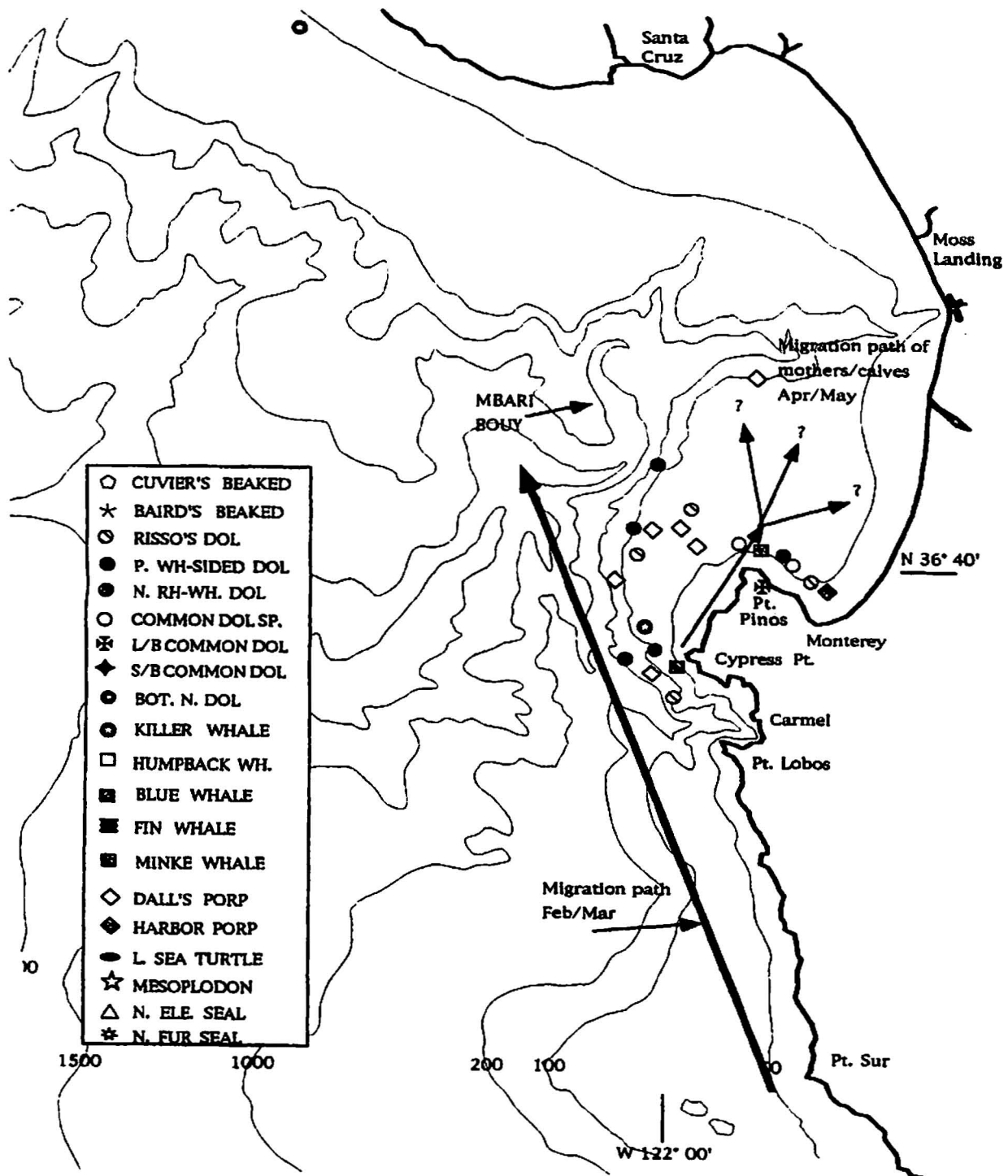
HARBOR PORPOISE			
2/25	2	North of Monterey Harbor	ELA

CALIFORNIA SEALION			
Few sea lions are presently using the Monterey Harbor breakwater recently. There are as few as none up to 5-6 present. About 50 in all are using the harbor, hauling out under piers or forming rafts. Most appear to be adult males.			

HARBOR SEAL			
Found along rocky shores from Monterey harbor to Pt. Lobos and in Elkhorn Slough.			

SOUTHERN (CALIFORNIA) SEA OTTER			
Found along rocky shores, the northern rim of Monterey Bay, and in Elkhorn Slough.			

ELA=Esta Lee Albright, JB=J. Baroni, BSOL=Big Sur Ornithology Laboratory, RG=R. Garcia, MBW=Monterey Bay Whalewatch, HN=H. Neece, LO=L. Oliver, LOE=L. Osnes-Eric, C&JS= C&J Scully, SHJ=Shearwater Journeys, RT= R. Ternullo, JW=J. Williamson, and WW=W. Williamson



Point Lobos Docent offers chance of a lifetime.

Here is a chance to join Cynthia D'Vincent's humpback whale research cruise on the research vessel the Acania out of Juneau, Alaska. There are five spaces available on this trip at a discount price (round trip air fare from Monterey is not included, but can also be had at a discount).

Depart Monterey on August 25 and return on September 5.

For more information on this spectacular chance to be right there next to those beautiful whales, contact Carol Machr at 373-3752. (Deadline is March 31st so DON'T delay.)

Bay animals to be studied

A new \$75,000 study will focus on the behavior of blue whales, humpback whales, Pacific white-sided dolphins and harbor porpoises in the Monterey Bay and the gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries.

Funded by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the project is a collaborative effort between researchers at the University of California at Santa Cruz and the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories.

"Again and again we find species of marine mammals congregating in certain locations within our sanctuary, and yet we have no idea of what they're doing there," said Dan Costa of UC-Santa Cruz, one of the principal investigators on the project. "Are they there to mate, to feed, to escape predators? We just don't know."

After using boat surveys to locate the animals, scientists will compare the distribution and abundance of each species with such variables as the water temperature and distribution and abundance of prey.

"Land ecologists are finding that it is much more important and effective to protect habitats, rather than individual organisms," said Terry Jackson, manager of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

"To the animals in the ocean, a distance of just a few yards can be like the difference between a rain forest and a desert to us," he said. "To better protect the sanctuary's resources, we need to determine how important these critical habitats are and how they influence the plants and animals that depend on them."

Source: The Monterey County Herald, December 26, 1995

Eye-to-Eye With a Gray Whale

...Molly Cummings

(Note: Molly is a U.C. Santa Barbara grad. student in marine biology, working at Hopkins Marine Station, where she studies the role of spectral variation in fish visual communications. Underwater encounters between SCUBA divers and gray whales appear to be rare here in central California.)

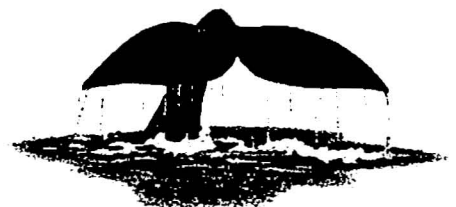
January 17, 1996, began in a wary manner. Jim Leichter and I had put off a research dive at deep reef for the previous two days, as the storms had wreaked havoc with sea conditions. After a bit of discussion, we finally decided to deal with the choppy seas and hope for the best--and the best is exactly what we got.

Upon arriving at the bottom, Jim headed for the top of the pinnacle where he had a data logger and pressure transducer (Jim

measures internal waves), and I took some light measurements at the pinnacle base. After finishing my work, I began swimming towards Jim 25 feet away. Within seconds a gray whale entered my field of view, stage left, apparently headed directly over Jim's head! It was an impressive and rather unusual sight for here was this graceful creature perhaps 30 feet in length, swimming over a SCUBA diver kneeling atop a pinnacle, head bent trying to secure his instrument with cable ties. From my vantage point (20 feet away and approaching Jim rapidly!) it looked as if the whale was perhaps only 10 feet above Jim. By the time I reached Jim at the pinnacle, he was well aware of this beauty of a behemoth swimming above.

Then came the grand treat. The whale turned the upper third of it's body in our direction, apparently trying to get a better

look at us. This is where fear entered the picture for me. The whale's head seemed to be only 10 or 15 feet away, close enough to clearly see the eye and the barnacles surrounding it. It is difficult to describe how I felt at that moment. All I can say is that it took my breath away and has left a lasting impression. He (or she) didn't stay in that position long. After a moments inspection, the whale turned around, let out a loud exhale and mosied on it's merry way. Jim and I were left behind feeling a little light-hearted with 50 feet of water pressure above.



Sea Lions Saved in Seattle

(continued from page 3)

WDFW a very important lesson in predator-replacement ecology. "If Hondo and his merry band are removed from the Locks, other sea lions will eventually step up to the plate and take their place." Adds Kundu, "Our proposal will solve the problem this season, but the real issue is ultimately implementing a permanent solution – biologists have stated, and we agree, that this solution involves building a sea lion-proof steelhead barrier and fish refuge at the base of the fish ladder." Sea Shepherd makes this proposal because of the potential precedent-setting implications of a lethal removal at the Ballard Locks. "If they were to kill Hondo, WDFW's actions would effectively unravel the integrity of the whole Marine Mammal Protection Act, the foremost piece of legislation that protects all marine mammals – orcas, humpbacks, gray whales – across the country," asserts Kundu. "Ballard is a litmus test; we have a responsibility to work beyond the first, most easily grasped, and in many cases, wrong solution. Sea Shepherd is dedicated to making sure that sound science and conservation practices are observed in this vital case."

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, an

international marine mammal protection and conservation organization, has 35,000 members worldwide. Membership information is available from (310) 301-7325, FAX: (310) 574-3163, or by sending an e-mail message to <SeaShepherd@aol.com>



Dead Otters in Monterey Bay Investigated

(continued from page 3)

the Monterey Harbor/Del Monte Beach area. Two of the otters were found alive, but both died despite supportive treatment received at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Mortality events involving groups of sea otters are unusual and a multiagency investigation involving the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Sea Otter Project, CDFG Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program, Marine Mammal Center (MMC), Monterey Bay Aquarium (MBA), National Biological Service (NBS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was launched. Necropsies and diagnostic tests on 10 of the 11 animals were performed at the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) and additional tests were performed through the CDFG and the MBA. The remaining animal, a decomposed otter found on July 25 was necropsied by the CDFG Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program and MBA personnel.

In addition to information collected from the animals found sick or dead, samples were collected from apparently healthy Monterey Bay sea otters to look for exposure to toxic and infectious agents. Mussels were collected from the Monterey harbor area to look for evidence of red tide toxins. A NWHC wildlife disease specialist traveled to Monterey to help collect additional epidemiological information. Through the course of the investigation, a great deal of useful information and potential leads were discovered, but no cause of the mortality has yet been identified.

Common causes of death in southern sea otters have been ruled out and many unusual infectious and toxic agents have been explored. No additional otters have been found sick or dead in the Monterey harbor area since July 25. The investigation is continuing.

(Material for this article was provided by Dr. Lynn Creekmore, Wildlife Disease Specialist. She works at the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin and was involved in the investigation of the Monterey Harbor southern sea otter mortality event.)

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And finally, two points of note...

ONE

ACS Monterey Bay Chapter is in need of someone to chair the Education Committee. This is something Jo Guerrero has done in the past, so if you might be interested feel free to give her a call to see what it is all about. Her number is 633-2956.

TWO

For those of you who have subscriptions to this newsletter, in order to facilitate your renewal and to help insure non interruption of service, there will be a **yellow** sticker holding your newsletter closed if you have one month left on your subscription. If this is your last month that sticker will be **red**. Otherwise the sticker will be **green**. Also, note the date on your mailing label; that is the date of your subscription. As a general rule, you will get no other notice.

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Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational, and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Marine Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker, 373-2274.

Soundings

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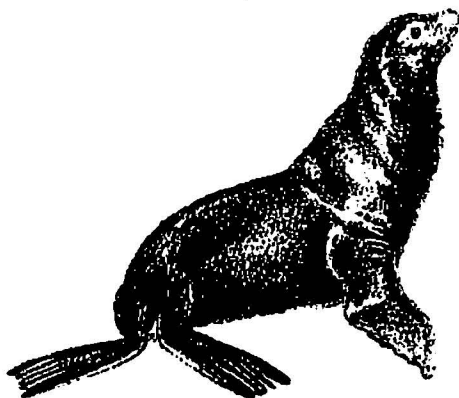
Monterey Bay Chapter
February 1996
April

The ACS Monterey Chapter Newsletter

California Sea Lions in Baja California; Their Natural History

On Thursday, April 25th at 7:30 p.m., Tony Orr of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories will present California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) in Baja California with an emphasis on their feeding and diving behavior at Los Ilotes, B.C.S., Mexico. Tony was involved in a study of the sea lions in that area to determine whether there are patterns and/or differences between sexes and among age classes in feeding activities.

Apparently, food habits and dive patterns of the California sea lion have been documented, yet few researchers have addressed whether sea lions of different sex or age partition their resources or habitats by feeding in different locations, feeding on different prey species, or feeding on different sizes of the same species. The objectives of this study were to compare abundance, diet, and activity patterns between sexes and among age classes of sea lions. Using the numbers of



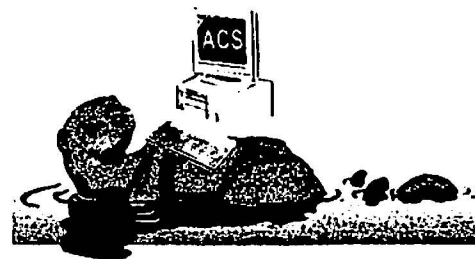
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animals estimated during breeding (February - April 1994) and nonbreeding (June - August 1994) seasons, the sex ratio was calculated to be 1:6 (males to females) during both periods. Using fish otoliths (ear bones used to age fish) and cephalopod beaks recovered in fecal samples collected, favorite fish and squid species were discovered. Prey consumed by males and other age/sex classes were similar during the nonbreeding season yet few similarities were observed during the breeding season. To determine activity patterns of sea lions, nine animals including three juvenile males, four juvenile females, and two female pups were radio-tagged and tracked during the period of February 6 through April 17, 1995. While individual differences were observed, activity patterns between sexes and ages could not be compared. Rest and active periods of animals varied. The number of dives per hour ranged from 41 to 118, while the duration of the dives ranged from approximately 36 seconds to 1½ minutes with the maximum dive duration a little over 24 minutes.

Join us Thursday April 25, 1996, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hopkins Marine Station for what looks to be an interesting evening.

E-MAIL OTTER



The newsletter editor has finally entered into the technological advances of the 20th century (now that we are virtually on the eve of the 21st century) and has e-mail. If anyone wishes to submit anything to the newsletter through the internet my address is:

Robert & Maura Leos
104261.757@compuserve.com

And don't forget:
We have our own Webpage
Thanks to Evelyn Starr

<http://www.redshift.com/~estarr/acs>

SPECIAL THANKS!!!

Deane Oberste-Lehn
Thank you very much for the selfless donation to our newsletter.

AND

Thank you **Randy Puckett** for donating from your sales on Saturday.

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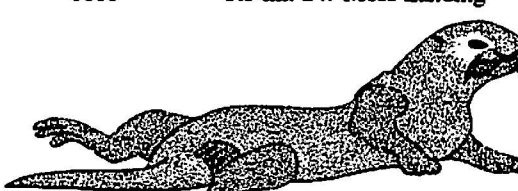
Marine Mammal Sightings ~ February 25 - March 25 1996

...Compiled by Richard Turnello

Spring winds began to blow regularly and strongly during the last two weeks of March marking the onset of the upwelling period. Sea surface temperature made a corresponding drop as a result of vertical mixing. This vigorous upwelling movement of sub-surface water should provide the conditions necessary to promote an increase in planktonic growth, decrease in water clarity, and formations of oceanic fronts.

Among the baleen whales, gray whales are still the center of attention. This will continue for about two more weeks as the bulk of the northbound whales pass Monterey Bay. Mothers and calves will still be seen passing the area, close to shore, until about mid-May. Although humpback whales are not seen regularly until some time in mid-April, there was a sighting this period. The observations of winter humpbacks are becoming more frequent, perhaps as a result of population increases.

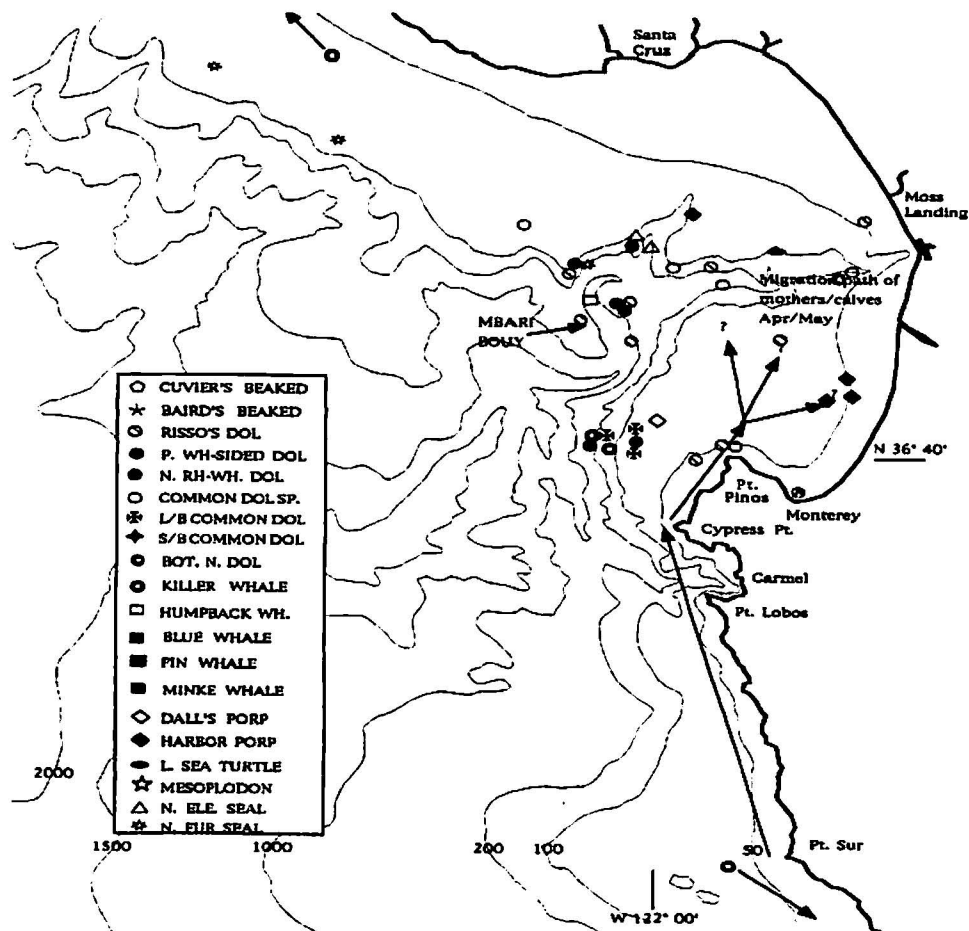
Among the toothed whales, dolphin activity seems less than normal with the exception of killer whales. Orcas have been seen regularly during the previous few weeks, and seem to be particularly interested in keeping the local population of California sea lions on their toes (flipper?)!

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.	DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
HUMPBACK WHALE				BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN			
3/23	1	.5 mi. E MBARI bouy	BL	3/8	3-4	Near Monterey Breakwater	NL
KILLER WHALE				PACIFIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN			
2/28	7	Partington Pt.	?	3/3	12	3.5 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	BW
Attacking gray whale(s)				Harassing gray whales.			
3/13	10-12	4 mi. W Pt. Pinos	JW	3/10	5	7 mi. S Santa Cruz	JW
Seen later that day consuming an unidentified prey item. A male associated with this group had a collapsed (to the left) dorsal fin.				3/17	50	.5 mi. E MBARI bouy	JW
3/14	1(male)	3.5 mi. W Pt. Joe	JW	Associated with 40 northern right whale dolphins and 40 Risso's dolphins.			
3/15	5-6	2.5 mi. SW Moss Landing	Pt.L.	3/19	6-8	5.5 mi. W Pt. Pinos	RT
18-20 whales seen later that day. This sighting could be the mysterious "offshore" killer whale, verification pending examination of photographs.				3/21	200	8.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	RG
3/17	3	1 mi. S Ano Nuevo bouy	TZ	LONG-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN			
Killing and consuming a California sea lion.				3/28	3-400	3.5 mi. WSW Pt. Pinos	LO
3/23	2	7.5 mi. SSW Santa Cruz	NL	COMMON DOLPHIN SP.			
Eating something				3/3	200-300	3.5 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	BW
RISSE'S DOLPHIN				3/8	5-6	Near Pt. Pinos bouy	NL
13/1	10-15	1.5 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	JW	3/9	1000	6 mi. W Moss Landing	TJ
3/3	5	3.5 mi. W Salinas River	JW	3/10	500	7 mi. NW Moss Landing	LO
3/3	15-20	1 mi. W Pt. Pinos	RT	3/18	500	4.5 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	RT
3/10	15	6 mi. W Moss Landing	LO	3/21	12	5 mi. SSW Santa Cruz	TJ
3/14	25-30	Near MBARI bouy	RG	3/24	1000	3.5 mi. SW Moss Landing	TJ
2/17	15	.5 mi. E MBARI bouy	WW				
3/21	20-40	8.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	HN				
Harassing gray whales.							

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.	DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
DALL'S PORPOISE				NORTHERN FUR SEAL			
12/26	20	3 mi. NW Cypress Pt.	LO	3/16	1	6 mi. S Davenport	RT
HARBOR PORPOISE				3/16	1	6 mi. WSW Davenport	RT
3/3	3+6+2	1.5 mi. W Marina St. Beach	RT	CALIFORNIA SEA LION			
3/9	2	1 mi. W Soldier's Club	RT	Only about 100-125 are present in the Monterey harbor with none seen to haulout on the breakwater. This could be related to the renovation of the Coast Guard pier.			
3/19	2-4	2 mi. W Marina St. Beach	RT	HARBOR SEAL			
3/22	3+3-6	4.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	RT	Found along rocky shores from Monterey harbor to Pt. Lobos and in Elkhorn Slough.			
NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL				LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLE			
3/10	1	7 mi. S Santa Cruz	JW	3/17	1	4 mi. NW Moss Landing	TJ
3/22	1	7 mi. S. Santa Cruz	RT	SOUTHERN (CALIFORNIA) SEA OTTER			
				Seen along the coast from the Monterey harbor south to Pt. Lobos and north to Elkhorn Slough.			

KEY TO OBSERVERS

RG=R. Garcia, TJ=T. Jones, NL=N. Lemon, Pt.L.=Research Vessel Pt. Lobos, BL=B. Lucas, LO=L. Oliver, HN=H. Neece, RT=R. Ternullo, JW=J. Williamson, BW=B. Wilson, WW=W. Willimason, TZ=T. Zoloniack.



Tuna/Dolphin, Ballard Locks Sea Lions, and ATOC Bulletin Updates

...Barbara Britten

TUNA/DOLPHIN

After the February 29th hearing on the two tuna/dolphin bills in the House Subcommittee (Gilchrest H.R. 2823 and Miller H.R. 2856), most of the interested parties were led to believe that the mark-up would be scheduled before the end of March. When the announcement was made that the mark-up was postponed until after the April 1-15 Easter-Passover recess, anger and frustration were evident in some of the IATTC member countries, especially Mexico where some tuna industry officials expressed their determination that Mexico had been deliberately deceived by the United States. An influential segment of this group prevailed upon the Mexican government to concede that the La Jolla Agreement of 1992 does not conform to Mexican law and therefore some, or all, of its provisions can be ignored, including the requirement to carry IATTC observers. The ramifications of this are potentially dismal for the future of the IATTC. It is no secret that several organizations and individuals would welcome such an eventuality. There is still hope in other quarters that some kind of solution can be found to the seemingly impossible stalemate. Following is a schedule of April mark-ups in the House and a Senate Subcommittee hearing on the two Senate bills. April 18, Mark-up House Subcommittee; April 25,

full House Resource Committee; April 24, Hearing Senate Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries of Senate Commerce Committee.

BALLARD LOCKS SEA LIONS

As of this writing - end of March - there has been no lethal take of either of the two California sea lions that have been identified and observe as repeat offenders on exceeding the quota on eating steelhead as these fish return upstream to their spawning grounds.

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's offer to underwrite the cost of relocating these animals back to California has not panned out. Under the terms of the inter-agency and inter-state agreement concerning the sea lion problem, such a relocation from Seattle must be approved by the California Coastal Commission. It refused Sea Shepherd's request.

The Washington Department of Fish and Game and National Marine Fisheries staff met with representatives from some large animal welfare groups in anticipation of a possible lawsuit. Since it has not materialized, it is anticipated that if and when either of the eligible sea lions are seen capturing and eating a steelhead, it will presumably be shot, as was approved in a close vote by the Animal

Care Committee. In that event, some protest activity by animal rights groups could be initiated. So far, this season (January to June), some 40 steelhead have been tallied in the fish counter at the locks.

ATOC BULLETIN

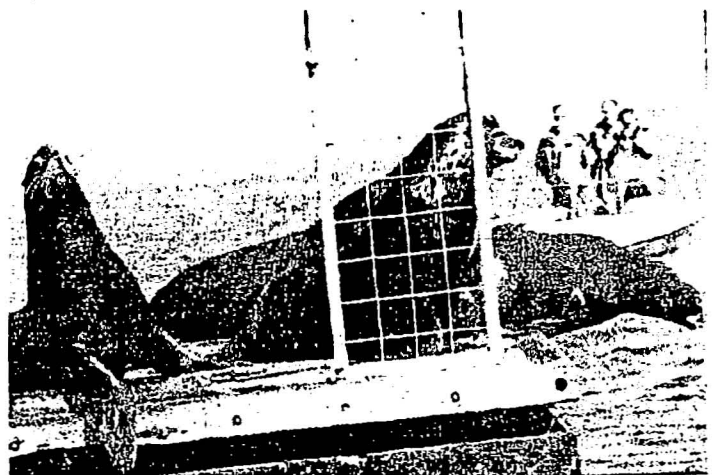
Scripps has applied for a modification of its protocol governing the ATOC marine mammal research project. It wants to utilize a vessel available to it that has a sound source capable of producing a 25 Hz level - compared with the 75 Hz level currently approved for these tests. It seeks a two week period to conduct dual-frequency transmissions. It is possible that this proposed modification will arouse interest and possible controversy. A Federal Register notice on this permit application will be published early in April and will have a 30-day public comment period.

(Barbara Britten was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years. She was recently appointed by President Clinton as the sole environmentalist representative on the 4-member U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Barbara lives in Davis.)

Sea Lions Marked for Death

California sea lions lounge on a cage - vandalized by animal rights activists - that was intended to capture them at Seattle's Ballard Locks, where they have been gorging themselves on steelhead salmon struggling to get to Lake Washington and spawning streams. With fish runs badly depleted, the state has received federal approval to shoot two of the more voracious sea lions, a prospect that has drawn protests and pleas to the governor. As of midweek, no shots had been fired.

Source: Associated Press-Monterey Herald Friday, March 29, 1996
(Photograph from Associated Press)



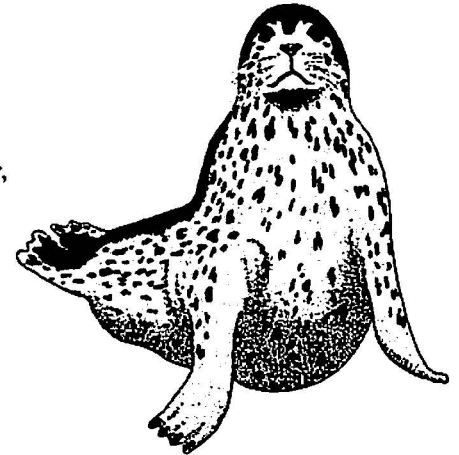
Red Necked Harbor Seals

A study on what may cause the fur of harbor seals to turn red, as well as the possible presence of toxins in harbor seal.

Guest speaker, Doreen Moser's presentation reviewed a study she conducted in an attempt to answer questions regarding the presence of toxins found in harbor seals from four sites along the western United States. The four sites were Gray's Harbor, Washington, Umpqua River, Oregon, and two sites in California, Elkhorn Slough and the Channel Islands. In addition to studying the presence of toxins and their levels, she investigated a condition known as "red pelage" that causes the hair of certain seals to turn red. In the San Francisco area many harbor seals (up to 40% in both sexes) are afflicted with red pelage. A condition that was initially confined to animals in this area, red pelage is now found in other areas, and again, only in harbor seals. There appears to be no physiological effect to the animals. Doreen concluded that the condition is caused by an accumulation of iron on the animal's hair. At the same time that iron levels were checked an analysis was conducted on blood and blubber tissue for the presence of other trace elements and toxins. No statistical significant difference in the amount of iron was found in the tissues of animals with red pelage and normal animals. One significant observation was made, however. Using an electron microscope, Doreen discovered that the hair of red pelage animals was very high in what was described as cuticle degradation. Doreen speculates that a possible reason for one animal affected with red pelage may be that that animal has some physical property of its fur allowing iron or other elements to oxidize (or rust) on the hair.

Toxicology and trace element analysis was conducted on all animals captured or found dead at the test sites. Additionally, liver samples were extracted from dead animals. The trace elements, copper, iron, selenium, and zinc were the only ones found. A number of toxic substances were tested for. The results of the study indicated that there were no significant differences in trace element levels in animals from the four sites. Also, pollutant levels were relatively low among samples at all sites.

Doreen covered the difficulties one encounters in setting up and carrying out a study of this type. She objectively pointed out that her study's limitations included a small sample size, poor sample composition, a low power of statistical comparison, and funding problems. Despite these limitations Doreen did an important piece of work that, combined with future work, will help answer questions about what and how harbor seals are affected by the presence of various elements in the ecosystem.



Monterey Bay Chapter's Board Members for 1996

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Jerry Loomis	Route 1, Box 62	Carmel, 93923	625-2120
Jud Vandevere	93 Via Ventura	Monterey, 93940	372-6001
Steven Webster	210 Asilomar Ave.	Pacific Grove, 93950	373-7676(h), 647-4864(w)
Tom Williams	2381 Fairfield Pl.	Carmel, 93923	375-5570

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Types of Memberships, Annual Dues

☐ Patron ☐ Contributing ☐ Supporting ☐ Active ☐ Family ☐ Foreign ☐ Student ☐ Subscription
(\$500) (\$250) (\$75) (\$35) (\$45) (\$45) (\$25) \$15/12 issues
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Note:

Subscription does not entitle subscriber to membership benefits

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Return to : Membership Secretary, ACS Monterey Bay Chapter
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For Subscriptions Make Checks Payable to ACS/Monterey Bay Chapter
Send to PO Box HE, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Chapter: #24 Monterey

Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational, and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Marine Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker, 373-2274.

Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



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Soundings



Monterey Bay Chapter
May 1996

The ACS Monterey Bay Chapter Newsletter

MBARI Ocean Acoustic Observatory - Real Time Monitoring System

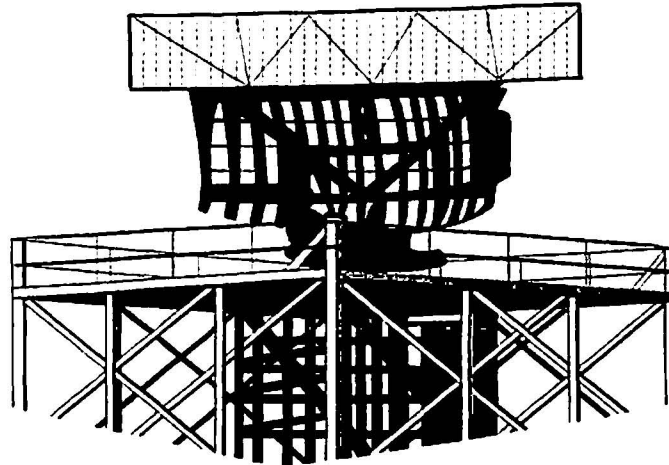
Dr. Khosrow "Lash" Lashkari, with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, will be speaking on

undersea earthquakes, and 3) man-made sounds, especially those created by shipping.

For those of you who do not know, the Navy SOSUS array is a sophisticated listening device off Pt. Sur once used to track soviet submarines. Now that the cold war is over, the Navy is allowing this array to be used in the monitoring of cetaceans and with marine mammal work.

Thursday, May 30, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hopkins Marine Station Lecture Forum. His topic will cover an acoustic monitoring system in Monterey Bay.

Briefly, this system will be ready for deployment by late 1996. It will use the US Navy SOSUS array for passive listening to record the following: 1) biological sounds, especially those of marine mammals. Also the myriad other sound of biological origin for many of which the sources are unidentified at the present time, 2) geophysical sounds such as



Dr. Lashkari has a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Stanford. Please join us for what sounds like a very impressive talk on May 30, at 7:30 p.m.

...In This Issue

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Bay Animals to be Studied

Reprinted from *The Monterey County Herald*, December 26, 1995

A new \$75,000 study will focus on the behavior of blue whales, humpback whales, Pacific white-sided dolphins and harbor porpoises in the Monterey Bay and the gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries.

Funded by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the project is a collaborative effort between researchers at the University of California at Santa Cruz and the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories.

"Again and again we find species of marine mammals congregating in certain locations within our sanctuary, and yet we have no idea of what they're doing there," said Dan Costa of UC-Santa Cruz, one of the principal investigators on the project. "Are they there to mate, to feed, to escape predators? We just don't know."

After using boat surveys to locate the animals, scientists will compare the distribution and abundance of each species with such variables as the water temperature and distribution and abundance of prey.

"Land ecologists are finding that it is much more important and effective to protect habitats, rather than individual organisms," said Terry Jackson, Manager of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

"To the animals in the ocean, a distance of just a few yards can be like the difference between a rain forest and a desert to us," he said. "To better protect the sanctuary's resources, we need to determine how important these critical habitats are and how they influence the plants and animals that depend on them."

Feeding and Activity Diversity of California Sea Lion

Attendees of the April ACS monthly meeting got to hear an informative discussion on the feeding and activity habits of the California sea lion on Los Islotes Island in the Bay of La Paz.

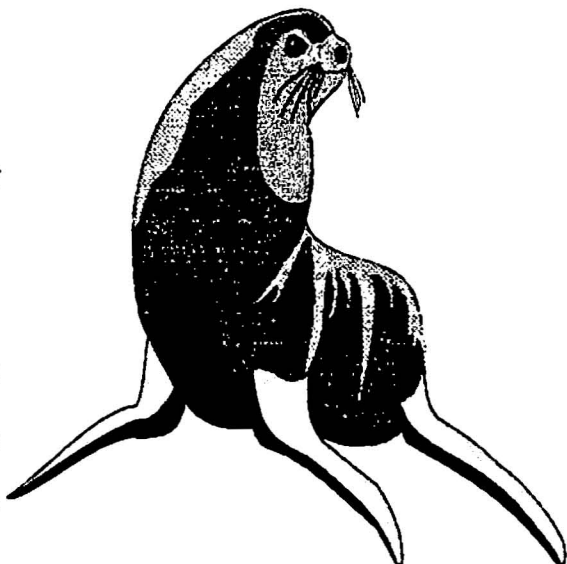
Tony Orr, our guest speaker, actually hails from Ohio. This is not the most likely area for a marine biologist to come from, and when asked why he chose this field of study, he stated it was the only subject he found really interesting. So, of course, he came to California, where he is doing his research. As it turns out, he did his research in Mexico since the abundance of different age classes and sexes of sea lions are much higher than here.

The study was conducted during 1994 and 1995 on the island of Los Islotes off the eastern coast of Baja California in the Bay of La Paz. *(Editor's note: The symbol for La Paz, for those of you who have never been there, is that of a dove with one wing to the front and one wing to the rear so that when looked at straight on, the bird also looks like a whale's fluke.)* Los Islotes is a volcanic island 250 meters long and is the southernmost breeding area for the California sea lion. The rich diversity of marine life was awe inspiring. Tony saw frigate birds, blue and yellow footed boobies, dolphins, porpoises, toothed whales, baleen whales and sub adult male elephant seals.

Tony's objectives were to determine whether California sea lions partition their habitat or resources to avoid competition in space. The premise for this theory is based on the fact that the male sea lion is morphologically and sexually larger than the female and juveniles. Because all sea lions are restricted under water, everything must be done in one breath. Adult males can swim farther, deeper, and faster and thusly get the faster prey. All adults are larger, faster and more experienced than juveniles and pups, and therefore can get prey easier. Also, there are differences in nutritional requirements depending on the time of year. If the animals are breeding (May - August), males need to store food to retain energy to keep their dominance, while females need to sustain energy to give birth and feed and protect the pups. The main question was, are they inhabiting the same area and feeding on the same prey? The methods used to determine the answers were population census,

food habits
observation, and
radio telemetry.

Population census consisted of trips to the island to count the animals. The island was divided into east and west sections, where the sex ratio and fluctuations during the year were recorded. The east section was determined to be the haul-out



CORRECTIONS !!!

The Editor of this newsletter wishes to report correct information at all times. Sometimes, however, she falls short due to misinformation, human error, misunderstanding, or just plain not knowing. In view of this statement, the editor would like to make two corrections:

Ferdinand Ruth was welcomed two months ago as Ruth Ferdinand and a new member. I now know that we need to welcome back longtime member **Ferdinand Ruth.**

Last month ACS Monterey Bay Chapter thanked Randy Puckett for his sales on Saturday, when in actuality the thank you was for his sales of **STATUARY.** Thank you again Randy Puckett.

Editors Note: I also found out that my statement two months ago regarding the colored stickers members will find on their newsletters was very misleading. I apologize. Being new to this membership I did not fully understand the workings. The red sticker serves only as a reminder that your membership is due. Because the national organization can be a bit behind sometimes, this was to serve as a reminder your dues need to be paid. If, however, you have paid, please disregard the color of the sticker.

Thank you for your understanding. Thank you also for bringing any and all errors to my attention so they can be corrected. As stated before, I may not even know I have erred without your help.

and NOTICES

Please note: The Board of Directors has been made aware of an ongoing problem with the distribution of the newsletter. Because of the original time table, many members in outlying areas are not receiving their newsletters in time for the monthly meetings. In order to alleviate this problem, the mailing of the newsletter will be stepped up a week. However, due to some constraints, this will not actually occur until the July issue. Also, because of the accelerated time schedule, all articles *must* be to the Editor no later than the date of the monthly meeting.

Special Note: The newsletter Editor will be out of the country for the last two weeks of June (in part, doing some cephalopod research in Aberdeen, Scotland) and will return just in time to get the newsletter together the first week of July. PLEASE have all articles ready to go by the first of July. My mailing address is :

922 Syida Dr.

Pacific Grove, CA 93950

e-mail address is:

(Maura & Robert Leos)

104261.757@compuserve.com

If we can get any shots of cetaceans and/or marine mammals, or turn up anything interesting in my research, I will be sure to share it with you in the August newsletter.

Sea Lion Feeding and Diving Habits

(cont. from Page 2)

zone where females, juveniles, and pups were concentrated. The west was the bachelor pad. A panga, a vessel very much like a Boston whaler, was used to circuit the island for the population census. Adult females 5 years +, adult males 9 years +, sub adult males 5-9 years, and juveniles 1-3 or 4 years were identified. Pups less than one year old were also identified. These were known to be pups "...cause they were so darn cute." Of course their size and the relation to the adult females also helped in this identification.

For the food habit study, fecal matter was collected and prey hard parts obtained. Hard parts consisted of otoliths (ear bones) from different species of fish as well as beaks from cephalopods. The fishes included different groupers, cusk eels and cephalopods (octopi and squid). Using otoliths and beaks Tony was able to identify the prey as well

as their length and weight.

Activity of the sea lions was recorded by the use of radio telemetry. Based upon observing whether a sea lion was practically comatose, the researchers designated to attach the radio collar would then very, very quietly sneak up like a ninja. Then, using a salmon net, the animal was pinned to the rocks allowing researchers to get it into a hoop net and carry it to where it was weighed, measured, sexed, etc. (Editor's note: I am sure this was easier said than done.) After that was accomplished, the pelage would be dried and the radio transmitter would be attached to the animal's head. The animal was then released so it could go about its normal activities (now being jeered at by its peers-not unlike our own teenagers). The researchers would sit and listen for a signal from the water. If there were 5 minutes or more of beeping the

animal was presumed to be hauled out. A cessation of 10 seconds or more signified a dive. Someone monitored the radio transmitter for 48 hours continuously for five consecutive trips.

Results of the population census showed that sub-adult and adult males, which had the lowest population, stayed constant. Pups and juveniles had a fluctuating population with the peak in July during the pupping season. Adult females fluctuated less with most of the population staying on the island to avoid predation and to protect pups. There appeared to be a 1:6 male to female ratio. Food habits showed that both sexes preyed mainly on the same fish and cephalopods. During breeding the main prey source was squid. Males fed mostly on groupers and sea bass during February - April. There appeared to be no great difference of activity between the age classes. While some were sleeping, others were awake. Most activity took place during the night. Actual activity patterns did start to show up during dives. Female juveniles made more dives. As a rule sea lions are wimpy divers. Dives ranged from 10 seconds up to 24 minutes. The normal dive time was 5 - 7 minutes. This proved interesting because the prey is normally pretty deep diving. There was some partitioning of prey.

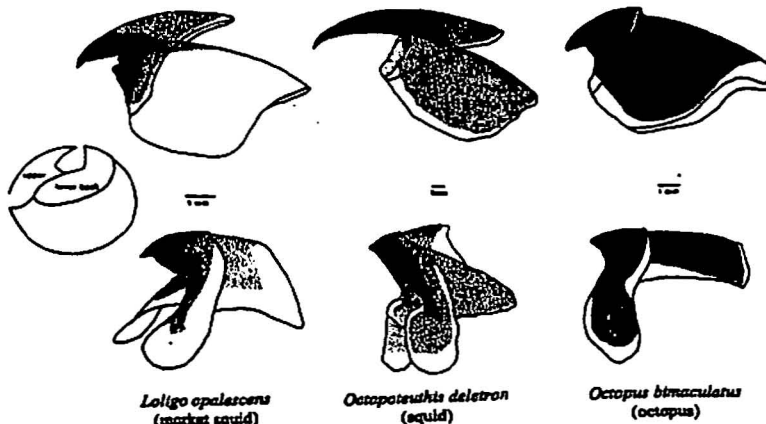


Illustration by Libby Osnes-Erie

Two by

(Barbara Britten was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years. She was recently appointed by President Clinton as the sole environmentalist representative on the 4-member U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Barbara lives in Davis.)

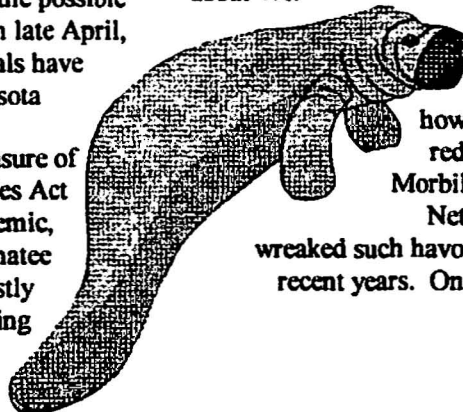
Barbara Britten

Florida Manatee Survival Threatened

Since early March this year, a scary and mysterious threat to the survival of Florida's manatee population may be developing, leading to speculation about the possible extinction of the species. From January 1 through late April, 248 manatees have died. Most of the dead animals have been found along the beaches from south of Sarasota extending for some 80 miles.

The West Indian manatee was given some measure of protection six years before the Endangered Species Act was enacted, yet survival, even without this epidemic, is questionable. Human interaction with the manatee has long caused a high annual mortality rate mostly caused by vessel collisions, entanglement in fishing

gear, loss of habitat, and depletion of food sources. The National Marine Fisheries Service estimated the Florida manatee population to be 2,639 in 1995, with a net productivity rate of about 4%.



As of this writing, experts are focusing on the morbillivirus as the most likely cause of the deaths, however, the possibility of the more familiar red tide as the cause has not been ruled out. Morbillivirus was identified by scientists in the Netherlands as a distemper like disease that wreaked such havoc among European seals and dolphins in recent years. One Miami expert is quoted as saying, "We

(...continued on page 6)

MARINE MAMMAL SIGHTINGS ~ MARCH 25 - APRIL 25

...compiled by Richard Ternullo

With the arrival of spring winds, upwelling patterns have been noted on Monterey Bay. Strong temperature fronts and decreased water clarity indicate some spring-like activity.

Among the baleen whales, activity is slow with a few gray whales noted throughout the Bay and no sightings of humpback whales. It is interesting to note that humpback whales and calves have been observed daily in the ATOC study area of Half Moon Bay for about two weeks.

Toothed whale sightings continue to be scarce, but the number of species remains high with killer whales the most notable species present. April and May are usually the two months with the highest occurrence of attacks on gray whales and their calves. However, the most frequently sighted group of killer whales in the bay, containing the male CA29, seems to be specializing in killing and eating California sea lions.

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.	DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
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GRAY WHALE

Most gray whale sightings are now composed of mother/calf pairs migrating close inshore. Best place to observe them is Pt. Lobos or Hurricane Point.

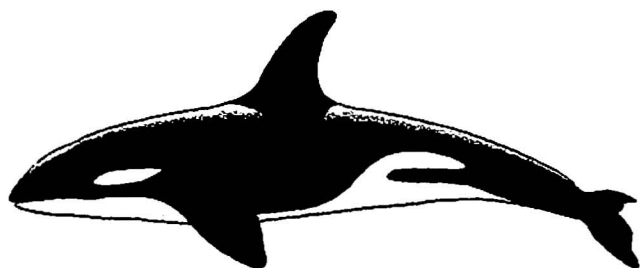
KILLER WHALE

3/26	7	4 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	DL
Killed something, perhaps a California sea lion.			

4/7	3	4 mi. SW Moss Landing	MB
-----	---	-----------------------	----

4/9	4	4 mi. SW Moss Landing	MB
Later photographed about 16 mi. W Moss landing, swam within 100 m. of 10 long-beaked common dolphins with no apparent interaction.			

4/14	3	7.1 mi. S Santa Cruz	TJ
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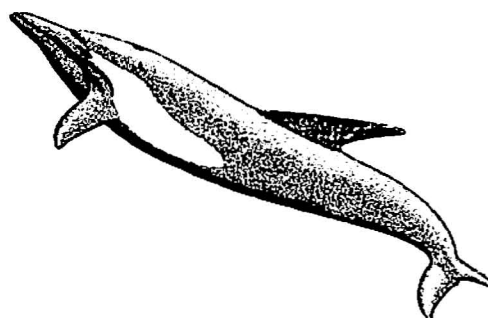


COMMON DOLPHIN

4/8	500	4.5 mi. SW Moss Landing	HN
-----	-----	-------------------------	----

4/9	500	Near Pt. Pinos Bouy	LO
-----	-----	---------------------	----

4/13	450	5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	MBW
------	-----	--------------------	-----



LONG-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN

3/29	1500	4 mi. WNW Pt. Pinos	MBW
------	------	---------------------	-----

3/30	1500	1.5 mi. N Pt. Pinos	MBW
------	------	---------------------	-----

RISSE'S DOLPHIN

13/27	25+10	8 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	MBW
-------	-------	--------------------	-----

3/31	?	4.5 mi. WSW Pt. Pinos	RT
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4/5	500	7.5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
-----	-----	----------------------	-----

Associated with 50 Pacific white-sided dolphins.

4/10	12	6 mi. S Davenport	RT
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4/21	8-10	1.5 mi. SE Cypress Pt.	RT
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DALL'S PORPOISE

4/8	2	4.5 mi. SW Moss Landing	RT
-----	---	-------------------------	----

4/19	5-6	3 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	RT
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NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL

3/27	2	4.5 mi. SW Moss Landing	RT
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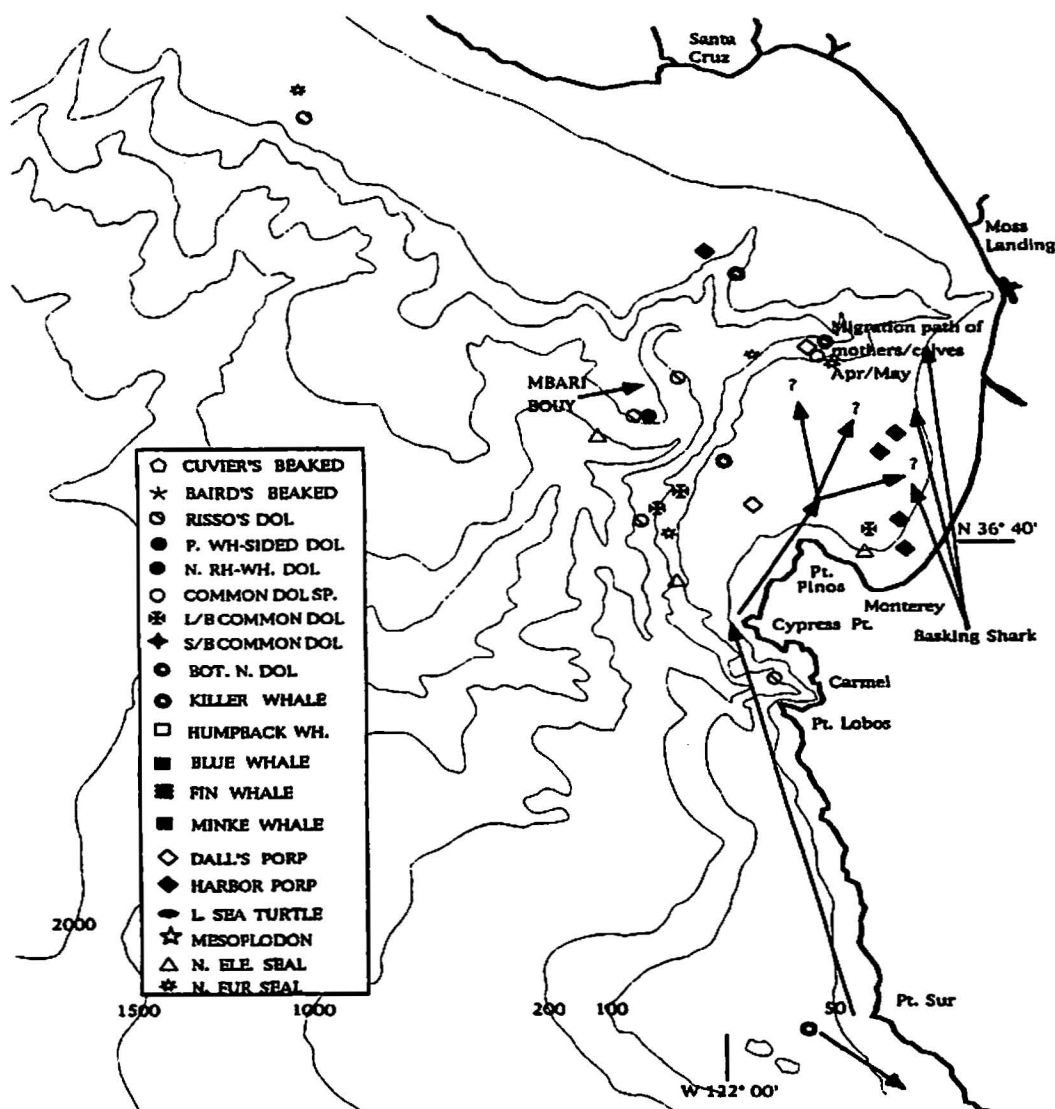
4/4	1	3 mi. W Pt. Joe	RT
-----	---	-----------------	----

4/5	1	.25 mi. N Aquarium	MBW
-----	---	--------------------	-----

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.	DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
HARBOR PORPOISE				MONTEREY HARBOR			
3/27	3-4	5.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	RT	About 200 are observable in the Monterey harbor. California sea lions are beginning to haul out on the breakwater with about 150 present on 4/24.			
4/8	4-5	3 mi. N Monterey Harbor	RT				
4/20	4	2 mi. W Marina Beach	RT				
4/20	8-10	1.5 i. W N. Seaside City Limit	RT	Found along rocky shores from Monterey harbor to Pt. Lobos and in Elkhorn Slough.			

NORTHERN FUR SEAL				COAST GUARD STATION			
3/29	1	4 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	RT	Found almost any where along the outer coast, kelp beds, harbors, Elkhorn Slough, and along the sandy shores within the bay.			
3/5	1	5 i. SW Moss Landing	RT				
4/8	1	5 mi. SW Moss Landing	RT				
4/14	1	6mi. S Davenport		4/10	1-6	From Moss Landing to Soldiers Club	Mobs.

MB=M. Baxter, TJ=T. Jones, DL=D. Lemon, HN=H. Neece, MBW, Monterey Bay Whalewatch, LO, L. Oliver, RT=R. Ternullo, Mobs.=Many observers.



Manatee/Tuna Problems *(cont. from page 3)*

managed to kill most of this species off and now we have a natural mortality...that could be the final death blow. This is your worst nightmare for the manatee."

The manatee death crisis is the first test of a new function assigned to the National Marine Fisheries Service, the awkwardly-named, The Unusual Marine Mammal Mortality Events Working Group. This group was created as a result of what were perceived as inept and diffuse efforts to track down the cause of dolphin die-offs in the mid-Atlantic in 1987-1988, and other die-offs in Europe and the Mediterranean. Whether this team of government and academic experts, or anyone else, can have any impact on this current crisis can only be hoped.

Tuna-Dolphin

Not much has changed since the last report. The administration backed tuna-dolphin bill, H.R. 2823, introduced by Rep. Gilchrist (R, MD) was voted 9 to 6 — strictly on party lines— out of the Fisheries and Wildlife Sub-Committee on April 18. It now goes to mark-up in the full Resources Committee, under Dan Young, at a future date not yet scheduled. When Speaker Gingrich will schedule consideration in the full House is also not yet known.

Meanwhile, the Senate Oceans and Fisheries Sub-Committee has rescheduled its first hearing now to be held on April 30. This hearing will have the same kind of lineup as a similar hearing the House committee had on February 29. The Boxer-Biden Bill is pitted against the administration-backed Stevens-Breaux bill. Many same witnesses will essentially repeat the testimony they presented at the House hearing. Senator Boxer still insists she will use every legislative tool possible in her opposition to this government-proposed bill.

vocalizations they detect.

Biologists have long censused whales from aircraft or ships, counting how many animals they see at the surface. This is much like birding in a dense forest with your ears plugged. The animals may be hidden from view, and when they briefly show themselves, you may be looking the other way. These problems can be overcome with careful listening; also a way to detect animals too far away to be seen.

Until now, biologists lacked the specialized equipment and experience required for underwater acoustic monitoring. Whales '95 brought together BRP staff with observers from the National Marine Fisheries Service aboard the research vessel *Acoustic Explorer*. To maximize the chances of seeing and identifying whales, four or more observers stood watch on the flying bridge throughout the daylight hours. Meanwhile the *Explorer* towed a mile-long cable carrying 16 underwater microphones, or hydrophones, that recorded whale sounds. In the onboard acoustics laboratory, researchers used specialized computer systems developed at BRP to monitor the sounds.

During two 10-day cruises in an area about 200 miles west of San Diego, The BRP biologists saw blue, finback, minke, and humpback whales, as well as several species of dolphins and porpoises. On several occasions, whales came within 20 meters of the ship and the hydrophone array; perhaps they were curious about the bright yellow cable being towed behind the ship or the strumming sounds the cable made as it moved through the water.

The BRP crew brought thousands of recordings of individual whale calls back to Sapsucker Woods, including some call types from finback and blue whales that have never been recorded before. As expected, the team never saw some of the animals they recorded, and some whales they saw were apparently silent.

Although it will take months of analysis to determine the best way to combine the acoustic and visual data, the project has demonstrated that biologists can detect many more whales when they listen as well as look.

(Rus Charif is a research support specialist in BRP.)

Seasick for Science

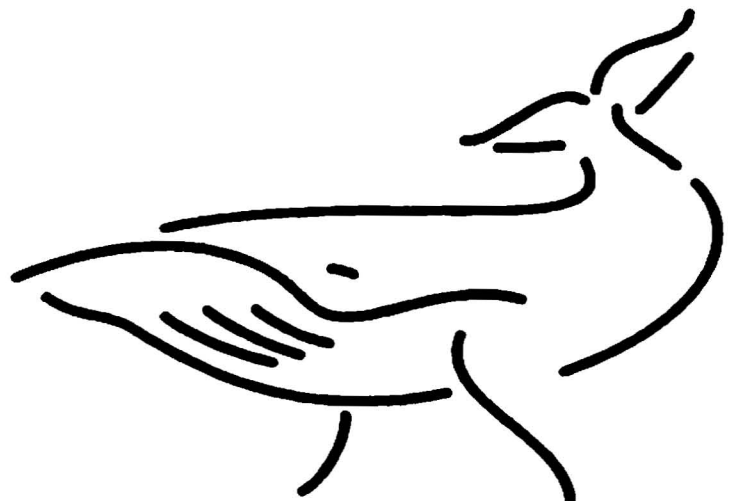
...by Russ Charif

(This article is reprinted in part from the Spring 1996 issue of Birdscape, News and View from Sapsucker Woods, Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

Counting whales on the rolling sea

A usually noisy wing of the Lab was uncharacteristically quiet this past fall; most of the Bioacoustics Research Program (BRP) staff spent 25 days on a ship off the coast of California, observing and recording whales.

Called "Whales '95," the expedition was funded by the U.S. Navy. Its principal goal was to compare two methods for censusing large whales from a moving ship: traditional visual counts, and acoustic counts, in which observers estimate the number of whales in an area based on the number of



Elephant Seal Population Growth Poses Problems on Central Coast

A story that The Monterey County Herald ran on Friday, April 26, 1996 reported an apparent surge in the population of elephant seals along Highway 1 just south of the Monterey County line. According to sources, the population is growing at a rate of 6% a year. The Marine Mammal Protection Act now has a success story, but the people who must watch over these animals are having a headache.

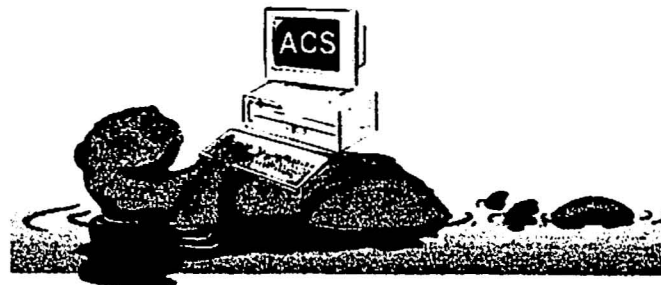
Motorists who usually drive fairly slowly along the beautiful coast highway, are now stopping dead in the middle of the road to oooh and ahhh over these animals and many near accidents have already occurred.

Unfortunately, many people are unwittingly harrasing the elephant seals as well, and putting themselves and family members in danger. Tourists, posing their children near the animals for photographs seem to have the misconception that they are docile. They generally are, but when provoked, can move pretty fast and have sharp teeth.

People should stay at least 50 feet from the elephant seals, and refrain from taking dogs onto those beaches inhabited by them in order to not risk the possibility of transmitting canine distemper.

There is a happy ending to this report. These animals whose numbers were down to 100 at the turn of the century, now number somewhere between 73,500 and 127,000.

E-Mail Otter



Don't forget what Emul otter says:

"If you've got e-mail send it to:

(Maura & Robert Leos) 104261.757@compuserve.com"

And ACS Monterey Bay Chapter's Home Page is at:

[HTTP://WWW.REDSHIFT.COM/~ESTARR/ACS](http://www.redshift.com/~ESTARR/ACS)

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AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational, and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Marine Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker, 373-2274.

Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



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Soundings

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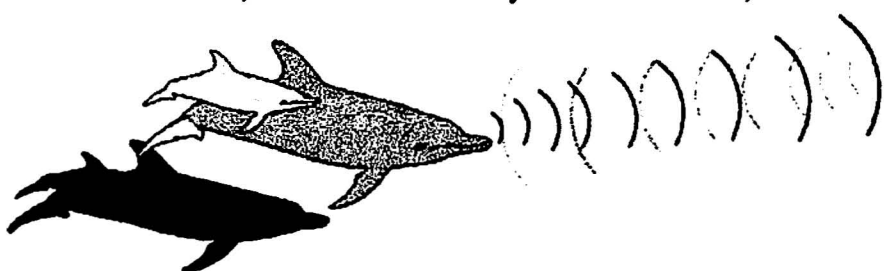
Monterey Bay Chapter
June 1996

The ACS Monterey Bay Chapter Newsletter

MARINE MAMMAL VISUAL AND ACOUSTIC COMMUNICATION

On Thursday, June 27, 1996 ACS Monterey Bay Chapter's own Thomas R. Kieckhefer, with the Pacific Cetacean Group (PCG) will present visual and acoustic communication in marine mammals. He will appear at Fisher Hall (the lecture forum) at Hopkins Marine Station at 7:30 p.m.

We experience our surroundings through the five main senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. Cetaceans explore their underwater world with similar senses to our own, though some are absent or limited, and others are enhanced to cope with their world. PCG Director, ACS Scientific Advisory Committee member, and Moss Landing Marine Laboratories graduate Tom



Kieckhefer will share some of the experiences he has gained while studying marine mammal visual and acoustic communication, particularly as they relate to other interests such as diving physiology and predator-prey relationships. His talk will include a multimedia presentation of slides, recordings, and video of a variety of marine animals (including Humphrey the wayward whale), providing examples of visual

displays (like flank flashing, carousel behavior, and bubble clouds), signature whistles, low frequency clicks, "cooperative" feeding calls, songs, and other types of communication. He will also discuss the potential impact of noise on marine mammals. Join us to learn how marine mammals explore and communicate in their marine environment.

ACS WHALE CONFERENCE !!!

The whale conference, titled "Whales in Today's World: Bridging Science, Policy & People," will be held November 8-10, 1996 at the Double Tree Hotel in San Pedro, California. There will be lectures, workshops, as well as a poster session. Discussions will include a theme of bridging the different perspectives of science, policy and people to tackle the complexities surrounding whales and dolphins today, promoting a common understanding of cetaceans and the current issues surrounding them, providing a forum for discussion among whale specialists, the general public, and teachers, and continue the ACS tradition of presenting solid scientific information in an accessible and thought-provoking format.

The Conference setting allows all the resources and excitement offered by the Los Angeles area to be taken advantage of. These include a reception at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, field trips to local attractions (I'd opt for Disneyland, but I guess Monstro the Whale isn't really representative of whales), an art show of marine mammal-related paintings, sculpture and photos, and a photo contest.

For more information and a registration packet, send your name, address, and phone number to: American Cetacean Society, PO Box 1391, San Pedro, CA 90733-1391. Phone (310) 548-6279, FAX (310) 548-6950, email acs@pobox.com.

ACS Monterey Bay Chapter will be sending Richard Ternullo as its representative to this conference. We are sure he will bring us back all sorts of goodies. Pictures too hopefully.



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HOPKINS MARINE STATION LIBRARY

JUN 11 1996

ACS' First-Ever Slough Trip a Great Success



A dozen ACS members explored the wonders of Elkhorn Slough, our central coast's largest wetland area, on a perfect spring day last month. In addition to a huge number of resting harbor seals (127 total, including 14 fat pups) and 45 feeding, socializing and resting sea otters, we were treated to sightings of nearly 30 species of seabirds and shorebirds -- not to mention a couple of gangly, fuzz-ball red-tailed hawk chicks watching us from a nest high atop a slough-side eucalyptus. A long look at a bat ray flapping its wings while foraging over muddy shallows was also much appreciated: it's not a sighting likely to be made elsewhere in our Monterey Bay Sanctuary. Needless to say, the spectacular trip was well worth the wait since our first aborted attempt on a stormy day last December.

Our thanks to Yohn Gideon, Captain and owner of the stable pontoon boat which carried all of us comfortably. He was skipper, slough historian and chief birder, and donated much of the proceeds from the trip to our chapter. Thanks also to ACS naturalists Carol Keiper, Terry Hoornbeck and Jo Guerrero, and -- most of all -- thanks to the enthusiastic ACS passengers who made the trip so enjoyable for all.



TUNA/DOLPHIN ~ BALLARD LOCKS SEA LION ISSUES

...by Barbara Britten

Tuna/Dolphin Saga Continued

The administration's bill regarding the revised MMPA language on "dolphin-safe" tuna and the Panama Declaration was recently reported out of the full Resources Committee. The immediate future course of this bill is uncertain at best. Before it can be brought to the House floor one of two possible actions may be taken on it. The first is referral for formal action from the powerful Ways and Means Committee. The second is informal negotiation between the Resource Committee and the Ways and Means Committee to reach agreement on any differences.

Yet another committee, the House Appropriations Subcommittee which deals with the budgets of the Commerce and State Departments, may delay the House vote. A letter written on behalf of the coalition opposed to the bill was received by the chair of the House Appropriations

Subcommittee, proposing a drastic funding cut in the 1997 budget for the appropriation allotted to the IATTC from the funds for International Fisheries Commission, from \$2.7 million to \$500,000. The effects of such steep cuts on the IATTC's work could be dire and are yet another unknown variable in the complex election-year political games being played.

The Senate's actions are extremely difficult to predict. Getting reliable information on scheduling is being hampered by the change in leadership. The administration's bill is yet to be marked up by the full Commerce Committee. No Senate staffer is willing to guess at a possible schedule on any legislative measure in the pipeline, for the reasons given above.

At the end of May, several telephone calls to several relevant committee and subcommittee staffers of both parties, regardless of their position on the bill, yielded as many opinions as there were telephone calls. There seems to be a common thread; the entire Congressional agenda is being driven by the vagaries of the election's winds. Many staffers agree that the last thing most House members want is any kind of confrontation that would draw headlines on any piece of environmental legislation. And so we all keep hanging on to that cliff.

Ballard Locks Sea Lions Fate

As of the end of May, there are three Ballard locks sea lions in holding pens awaiting transportation to a permanent home in Sea World, Florida. Despite lawsuits already filed and more

(continued on page 4)

...they're not marine mammals, but they are "warm-blooded" ...

Much ado about tuna: Using new tools to ask age-old questions about tuna physiology and behavior" by Heidi Dewar, Research Scientist at Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute and Hopkins Marine Station.

Wednesday, July 17th, 7 pm, Friends of MLML Community Seminar Moss Landing Chamber of Commerce Building 8071 Moss Landing Road (across from the ML Post Office, along "Antique Row" in Moss Landing) Free and open to the public.

The Role of Sound in the Ocean

~ Oceans Are Talking to Us If We Only Listen ~

On May 30th, Dr. Khosrow Lashkari from MBARI, gave a presentation on the importance of sounds in the ocean environment. His talk covered two general areas: the importance of sound in water from a physical standpoint, and its importance to marine mammals.

Dr. Lashkari began his presentation by highlighting some interesting properties of sounds - both in the water and in the air. Sound is the only form of energy that effectively propagates in water. It also travels greater distances through water, much greater than it does in air. Sound attenuation in water is less than that in air. To illustrate the above, Dr. Lashkari used as an example an incident that occurred off the west coast of Australia on 21 March 1960. A large explosion occurred that sent sound waves through the ocean. So effective is water at transmitting sound, that hydrophones near Bermuda were able to "hear" the sound. This was at a

in shallow water than in deeper water. Dr. Lashkari used an interesting analogy to better describe the importance of sound in the water. He stated that sound underwater plays the same role as light in the air. It also plays the same part as radio waves in the air.

Why do marine animals use sound? This question made up the second part of the presentation. Sounds come into play as integral survival related functions. Animals (in this case, whales) use sounds for feeding/foraging, breeding/mating, navigation, and communication. Of course different marine animals create different sounds.

An audio tape was played to better demonstrate how different species of whales sound underwater. As a general rule, the larger the marine mammal the lower the pitch of the sound it

produces. For example, blue whales produce a much lower pitched sound than that produced by dolphins.

Dr. Lashkari wrapped up his presentation by briefly commenting on how researchers "listen" to the sounds of the oceans. One system currently used is the Ocean Acoustic Observatory (OAO). OAO is employed to literally listen to what's going on out in the ocean, or to listen to passive sounds.

These sounds are then identified (if possible) and studied. From the analysis of sounds, researchers are better able to understand how sound affects marine organisms, and at the same time better able to understand how these same animals use sound to

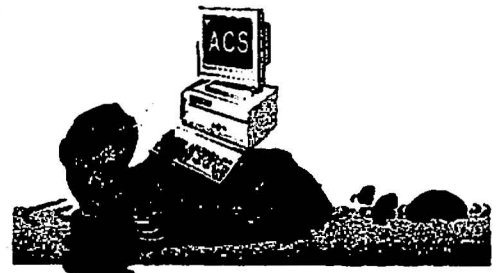


Man, have I heard that line all over the world!



distance of approximately 12,000 miles. Not only does sound travel so well in water, it also travels 5 times faster than in air.

A brief description of the types of sounds heard in the ocean covered ship noises, marine mammals, Rafos sources, and unidentified sources. One other property of the sound/water complex was mentioned. Ambient sound (or background noise) is louder



COMING SOON!

Emul Otter is moving to a new haulout. Stay tuned for his new address.

ACS Monterey Bay Chapter's address is still the same:
[HTTP://WWW.REDSHIFT.COM~EStarr/ACS](http://www.redshift.com~EStarr/ACS)

**ALSO COMING NEXT MONTH
NAME THAT ANIMAL
STAY TUNED**

FLIPPER TO THE RESCUE!

NEW *FLIPPER* MOVIE OPENS WITH (800) NUMBER TO HELP PREVENT PASSAGE OF THE DOLPHIN DEATH ACT IN CONGRESS

(Editor's note: this article came to me in a packet of different issues. It was a press release dated May 16, 1996)

San Francisco - Environmentalists hailed the new *Flipper* movie, slated to open in theaters across the country on Friday May 17th, just as Congress is considering Dolphin Death legislation to seriously weaken U.S. dolphin protection laws.

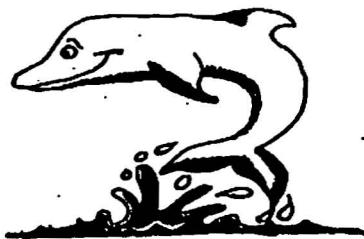
"The new movie could not come at a better time," stated David Phillips, Director of Earth Island Institute, a sponsor of dolphin protection legislation. "We hope it mobilizes children and adults across the country to stop the weakening of U.S. dolphin protection laws."

Last week, the Republican-controlled House Resources Committee passed legislation, H.R.2833 by Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD) and Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA), sponsored by Mexico and the Clinton-Gore Administration, to lift the current ban on U.S. imports of tuna caught by methods that slaughter thousands of dolphins annually. The bill would further change the definition of "dolphin safe" tuna to allow chasing, harassing, injuring, and encircling dolphins in tuna nets, as long as no dolphins were "observed" killed outright. Democratic members, led by environmental champions Rep. George Miller (D-CA) and Gerry Studds (D-MA), attempted to amend the bill but were thwarted by the Republican majority. The Senate Commerce Committee will consider similar legislation in June.

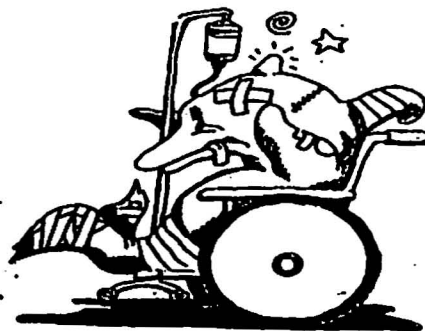
"These bills represent consumer fraud of the highest order," Phillips charged. "The public will not stand for sacrificing our dolphins on the high seas so that Mexico and other foreign nations can sell their dolphin-deadly tuna on U.S. supermarket shelves. Congress and the Clinton Administration need to understand the dangerous consequences of these irresponsible, anti-dolphin actions."

The new *Flipper* movie features an (800) FLIPPER number at the end, encouraging the audience to call to get involved in dolphin protection efforts in Congress. For a small fee charged to their phone bill, callers can send telegrams to their members of Congress asking them to oppose the Dolphin Death Act.

"We appreciate the makers of *Flipper* and the many members of the Hollywood community who continue to show strong support for our environmental laws," Phillips continued. "This sneak attack on dolphin protection laws will fail as the American people, aroused by *Flipper* and other media, fight back against an insensitive Congress, led by the nose by Mexican lobbying dollars." *(Earth Island Institute is a nonprofit environmental protection organization and is in no way affiliated with the American Cetacean Society.)*



DOLPHIN-SAFE TUNA
(Public View)



DOLPHIN-SAFE TUNA
(Republican View)

(continued from page 2)

The Saga Continues

threatened, these animals were spared the possible fate of being shot, when Sea World offered to house them. Subsequently, a permit was granted by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Of the four animals identified as eligible for capture because of their fondness for a diet of steelhead, one still remains at large. This remaining animal will be monitored through the end of June when the migration season (and this program) ends for this year.

Endangered Species Act Listing

The anti Endangered Species Act (ESA) zeal of the Congress in 1995 led to a moratorium on all new listings by the Fish & Wildlife Service under the ESA. This provision was attached to the final budget agreement for the 1996 budget that was negotiated between the White House and Congressional leadership to end that sad stalemate. President Clinton apparently indicated he would not agree to the budget unless he was given authority to lift that moratorium after he signed the budget bill.

The first animal to receive newly-granted protection ("threatened") was the California red-legged frog believed to be the famed jumping frog honored by Mark Twain. According to the Fish and Wildlife Service, the frog, once abundant is now stable, hence its "threatened" rather than "endangered" status. The red-legged frog is the victim of loss of habitat, as so many species today are.

(Barbara Britten was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years. She was recently appointed by President Clinton as the sole environmentalist representative on the 4-member U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). Barbara lives in Davis.)

MARINE MAMMAL SIGHTINGS APRIL 25 ~ MAY 30 1996

Humpback whales have made their first showing of the year with as many as 25 individuals reported in a single day. During the last week of the reporting period, most had left the area. By this time next month blue whales should appear in the list of sightings.

Small cetaceans have been seen mostly in small groups characteristic of this time of year when food supplies should be widely dispersed and available.

Sea surface temperatures seem high for this time of year with

highs reaching 14.5 degrees Celsius (59 degrees Fahrenheit). Normally May and June mark the lowest sea surface temperatures of the year. This could help explain the stranding of a green sea turtle at the Salinas River.

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
------	-------------------	----------	------

PACIFIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN

5/1	50	Near MBARI buoy	HN
Associated with 50 Risso's dolphins and 10 northern right whale dolphins			
5/13	1000+	3.5 mi. W Seal Rock	HN
5/14	15-20	3.5 mi. W Pt. Joe	RT
5/17	150	6.5 mi. W Moss Landing	RT

NORTHERN RIGHT WHALE DOLPHIN

5/21	350	2.5 mi. W Pt. Lobos	RT
Associated with 100 Risso's dolphins and 20 Pacific white-sided dolphins			

LONG-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN

5/5	2	Near Wharf #2	ELA
Pacific mackerel are abundant in the area			

COMMON DOLPHIN SP.

5/2	100	4 mi. SSW Santa Cruz	RT
5/8	50	7 mi. SW Moss Landing	WW

DALL'S PORPOISE

4/27	3-4	7 mi. SSE Santa Cruz	RT
5/12	5	5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	UCSC
5/19	5	10 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
5/20	6	2 mi. W Pt. Pinos	MBW

HARBOR PORPOISE

4/29	3-4	1.5 mi. Mty. Bch Hotel	RT
4/28	3	2.5 mi N Pt. Pinos Light	RT
Briefly rode the bow of the boat			
5/12	2	2.5 mi. W Soldier's Club	RT
5/17	2-4	5.5 mi. WNW Moss Landing	RT

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
------	-------------------	----------	------

HUMPBACK WHALE

There are thirty-five sightings of this whale, mostly in pairs, form Carmel Bay to Soquel Canyon and off Fort Ord. They seem to be feeding on northern anchovy and krill. As of this past week, most seem to have left the bay.

Best observation is of a humpback whale seen swimming out to sea from under the Highway 1 bridge! It was apparently seen by quite a few patrons at Maloney's and Skipper's Restaurants.

KILLER WHALE

5/4	2	3.5 mi. NW Pt	CA
5/7	4-6	4.5 mi. SW Moss Landing	unk.
5/18	12	5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	DR
Killed and ate a pinniped			
5/18	5	8 mi. S Davenport	TZ
5/20	1 (male)	4 mi. S Natural Bridges Santa Cruz Co.	TZ

RISSO'S DOLPHIN

4/30	50	7 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	LO
Associated with 1 humpback whale			
4/29	12	7.5 mi. SSW Santa Cruz	BL
Harassing 1 humpback whale			
4/30	40	6 mi. W Moss Landing	RT
With 5 Pacific white-sided dolphins			
5/4	50	Near MBARI buoy	HN
5/12	25	1 mi. E MBARI buoy	MB
5/17	20	Carmel Bay	HN
5/23	100	5 mi. W Moss Landing	MBW
Along with 100 Pacific white-sided dolphins			

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.	DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
NORTHERN FUR SEAL				NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL			
4/30	1	6 mi. S Santa Cruz	RT	5/6	1	2 MI. NW Pt. Lobos	RT
5/7	1+1	4.5 mi. W Pt. Joe	RT	5/6	1	2.5 mi. SW Cypress Pt.	RT
5/11	1	3.5 mi. W Cypress Pt.	RT	5/11	1	In Monterey Marina near Customs House	RT
5/11	1	2.5 mi. W Cypress Pt.	RT				
5/12	1	4 mi. WSW Pt. Pinos	UCSC	5/19	1	15 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
5/17	1	4 mi. W Moss Landing	RT	5/19	1	20 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
	With a yellow flipper tag			5/19	1	17 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
5/23	1	7.5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	RT	5/19	1	14 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLE				5/19	1	9 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
5/20	1	8 mi. S Santa Cruz	GF	GREAT WHITE SHARK			
				5/11	1	West side of Soquel Canyon	M.obs.

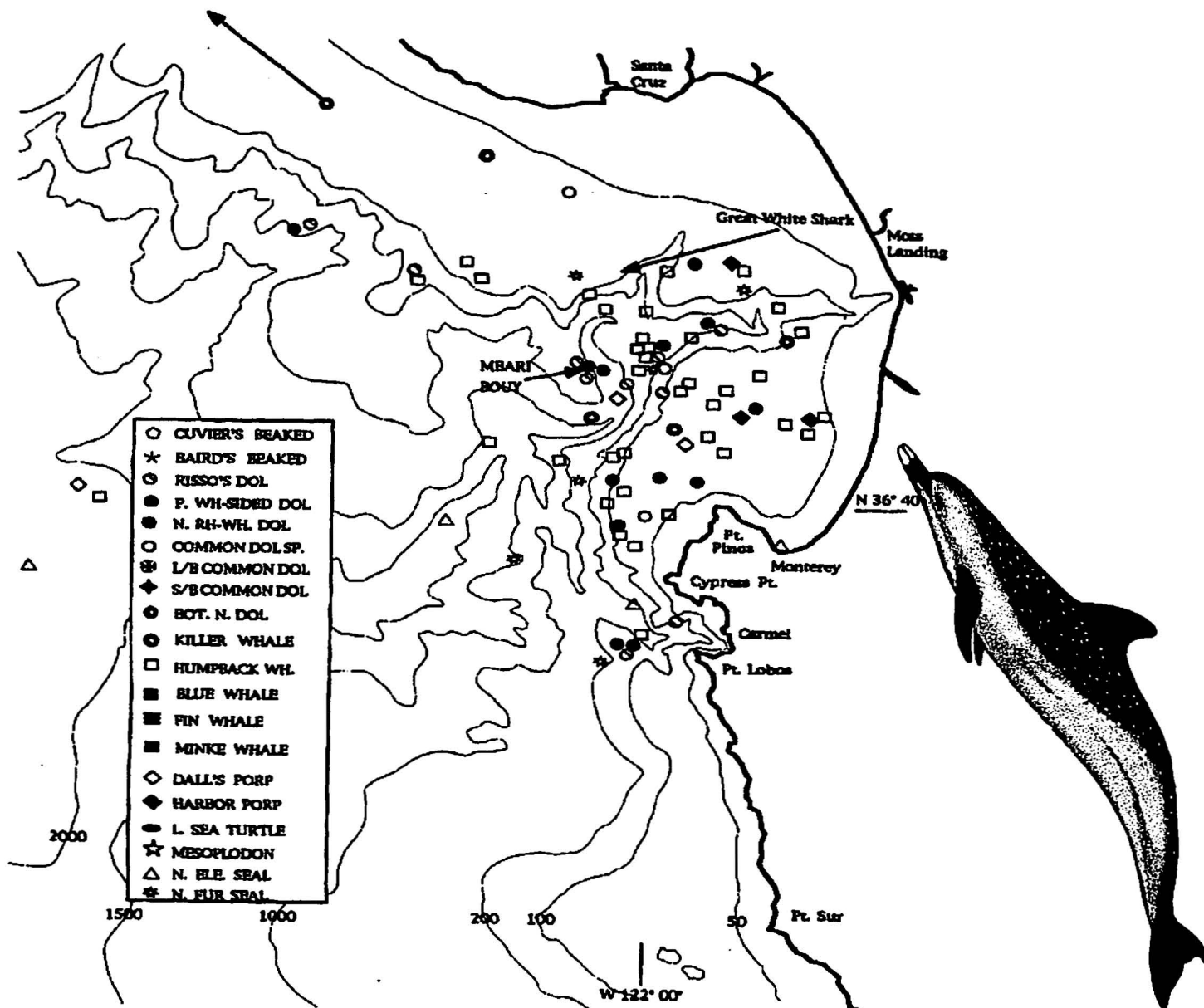
KEY TO OBSERVERS

ELA=EL Albright, CA=C. Arcoleo, MB=M. Baxter, DG=D. Gibblin, BL=B. Lucas, MBW=Monterey Bay
 Whalewatch, HN=H. Neece, LO=L. Oliver, SHJ=Shearwater Journeys, RT=R. Ternullo,
 UCSC=UCSC Marine Mammal Class, WW=W. Williamson, TZ=T. Zoliniack

STRANDINGS

Compiled by Libby Osnes-Erie

DATE	LOCATION	SPECIES
3/14	Moss Landing	Harbor seal pup
3/15	Seaside	Unidentified
3/15	Pacific Grove	Harbor seal
3/22	Cypress Point	Harbor seal pup
3/13	Cypress Point	Harbor seal pup
3/27	Marina	Harbor porpoise
3/29	Sunset State Beach	Harbor porpoise
3/30	Moss Landing	California sea lion
4/5	Sunset State Beach	Harbor seal
4/9	Moss Landing	Harbor seal
4/11	Fanshell Beach	Harbor seal pup
4/12	Fanshell Beach	Harbor seal pup
4/17	Moss Landing	Harbor seal pup
4/25	Elkhorn Slough	Harbor seal pup
5/23	Moss Landing	Gray whale
5/23	Salinas River State Beach	Green sea turtle



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Steven Webster	210 Asilomar Ave.	Pacific Grove, 93950	373-7676(h), 647-4864(w)
Tom Williams	2381 Fairfield Pl.	Carmel, 93923	375-5570

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Soundings

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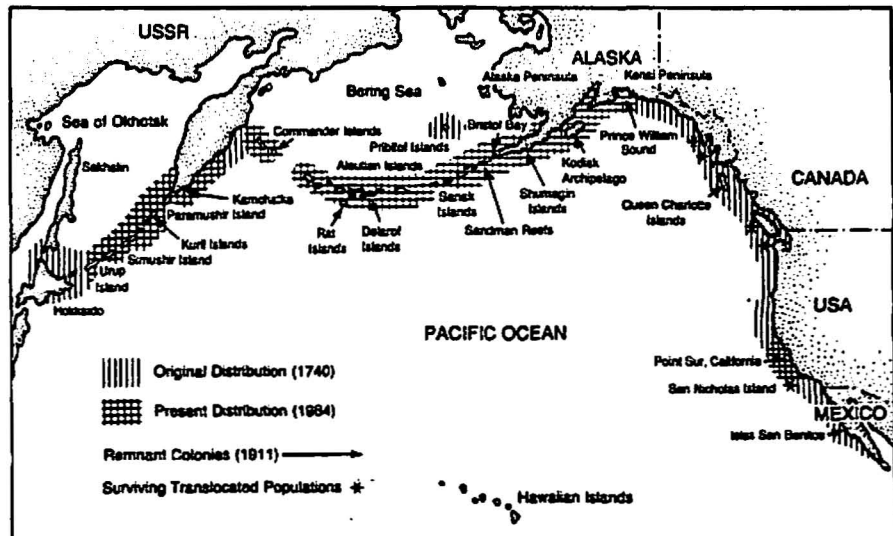
Monterey Bay Chapter
July 1996

The ACS Monterey Bay Chapter Newsletter

SEA OTTERS OF THE PACIFIC RIM: THREATS AND CONSERVATION NEEDS, AN UPDATE

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North Pacific Ocean showing original and current distribution of sea otters and indicating remnant populations existing in 1911.

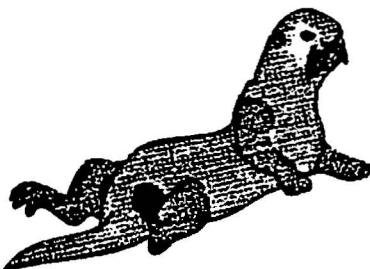
On Thursday, July 25, Ellen Faurot-Daniels, Science Director of Friends of the Sea Otter, will give a presentation about sea otters. She will appear at Monterey Boatworks Lecture Hall, Hopkins Marine Station at 7:30 p.m.

Many factors concerning sea otter management are converging this year. Congress may attempt revision of both the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) prior to the November elections.

Our speaker will update us on the status and problems of the differing otter populations from California north to Alaska and west to the Aleutians and the Russian Far East. Native take in Alaska and Washington State (proposed) will be discussed, as well as increased poaching in Russia. An update on the recovery of the Prince William Sound population following the Exxon Valdez spill will be presented.

Finally, the research needs of sea otters, which locally may include infectious diseases, will be considered.

Ellen Faurot-Daniels, who received her Master's degree at the Moss Landing Marine Labs, is well known in the local research and conservation community for her knowledge of the sea otter. Her work has taken her north to Alaska as well as to the halls of Congress. Please join us for an informative and interesting meeting.



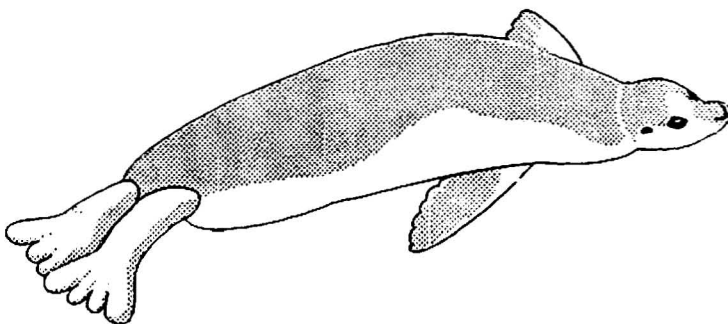
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MARINE MAMMAL SIGHTINGS

MAY 25 ~ JUNE 25

...compiled by Richard Ternullo



Sightings are down due to a combination of poor weather and poor fishing resulting in less effort. Although northwesterly winds have been brisk, only water close to shore seem to demonstrate any upwelling effect and offshore water seems warm and clear. The upwelling effect should continue to be expected until August.

Humpback whales are the most numerous baleen whale. The first sighting of blue whales for the year was recorded for this period. Curiously, there were no minke whales reported.

Pacific white-sided dolphins are the most numerous and frequently sighted small cetacean. Sightings of harbor porpoise and Dall's porpoise are low and may rise during the next reporting period.

The low number of species is normal for this time of year.

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
------	-------------------	----------	------

BLUE WHALE

6/22	2	Carmel Bay	RG
6/23	1	7.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	TJ

HUMPBCK WHALE

There are twenty-three sightings of up to 6-10 individuals throughout Monterey Bay and the surrounding area. The best opportunity for a sighting from shore should be at Point Lobos or possibly Point Pinos.

KILLER WHALE

6/1	4	9 mi. S Santa Cruz	DG
Possibly consuming a California sea lion			
6/9	2	Somewhere near Soquel Cyn	unk.
6/17	9	Near MBARI buoy	unk.

PACIFIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN

5/27	50	2.5 mi. NW Salinas River	RT
6/2	2000	Scattered from the MBARI westward	DG

From this date on throughout the remainder of the reporting period, Pacific white-sided dolphins become so widespread and common that listing is impossible. Literally hundreds of small groups of 2-20 individuals are seen daily, sometimes in association with humpback whales.

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
------	-------------------	----------	------

RISSE'S DOLPHIN

5/28	20	3 mi. W Pt. Pinos	RT
6/7	30-40	7 mi. SW Moss Landing	RT
In association with 20-30 northern right whale dolphins and 20-30 Pacific white-sided dolphins			
6/12	20	near MBARI buoy	BW
With unknown numbers of Pacific white-sided dolphins.			
6/16	20	Soquel Canyon	MB
Along with 20 northern right whale dolphins and some Pacific white-sided dolphins.			

6/22	50-60	7.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	NL
6/23	20	8.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	RT
Associated with 10 Pacific white-sided dolphins.			

COMMON DOLPHIN SP.

6/4	200	Near Pt. Lobos	BL
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DALL'S PORPOISE

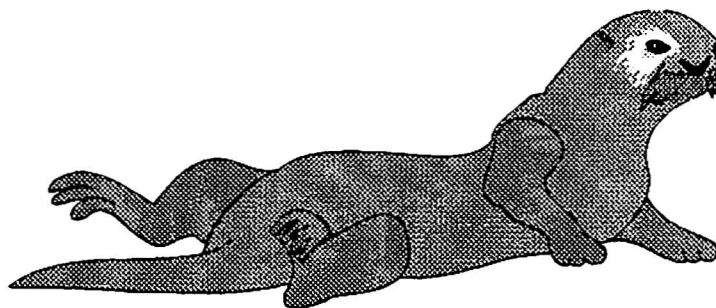
6/22	5-6	1.5 mi. SW Soberanes Rocks	RT
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NORTHERN FUR SEAL

6/8	1	9 mi. SW Moss Landing	RT
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STELLER SEA LION

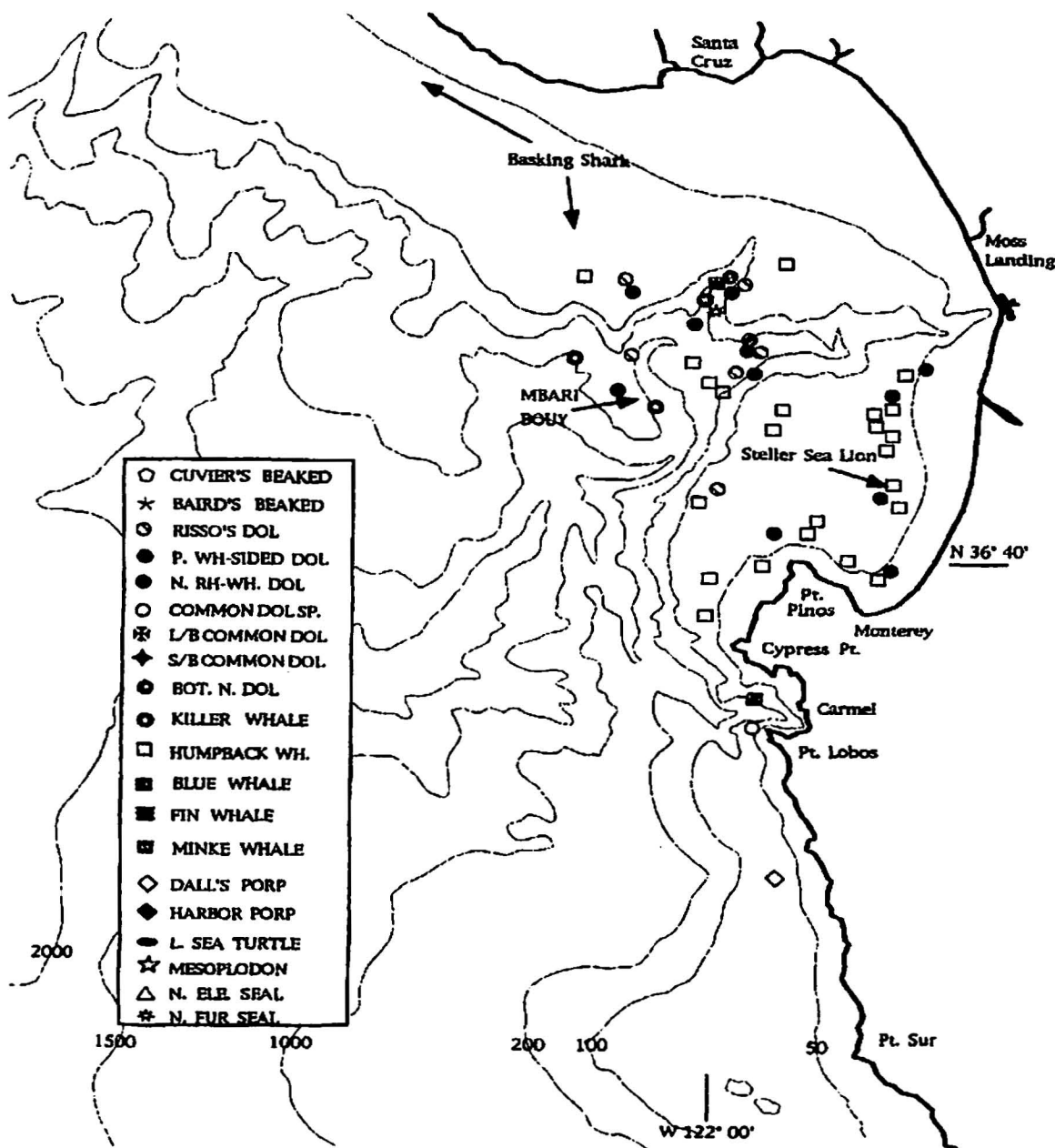
6/20	1	2.5 mi. W Soldier's Club	MBW
Interacting strongly with 10 Pacific white-sided dolphins, 4 humpback whales, and California sea lions.			



DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.	DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
BASKING SHARK				HARBOR SEAL			
6/9	1	3 mi. SW Ano Nuevo	AD	Found from Monterey Harbor to pt. Lobos and Elkhorn Slough.			
6/9	1	9.6 mi. SW Santa Cruz	AD	CALIFORNIA SEA LION			
SOUTHERN (CALIFORNIA) SEA OTTER				If you have not witnessed the influx of sea lions along the shore between Wharf #1 and Breakwater Cove Boat Yard, then by all means, you should. There are up to 2500 young California sea lions using the area as a hoaulout forming quite the spectacle and causing all sorts of mis-information, dis-information, and some information to be published in the local paper.			
Found along rocky shorelines from Monterey Harbor to Pt. Sur, along the sandy edges of Monterey Bay and in Elkhorn Slough.							

KEY TO OBSERVERS

MB=M. Baxter, AD=A. Davi, RG=R. Garcia, DG=D. Giblin, TJ=T. Jones, NL=N. Lemon, BL=B. Lucas,
MBW=Monterey Bay Whalewatch, RT=R. Ternullo, BW=W. White



Sea Lion Tagging Program:

Beachwatch can help

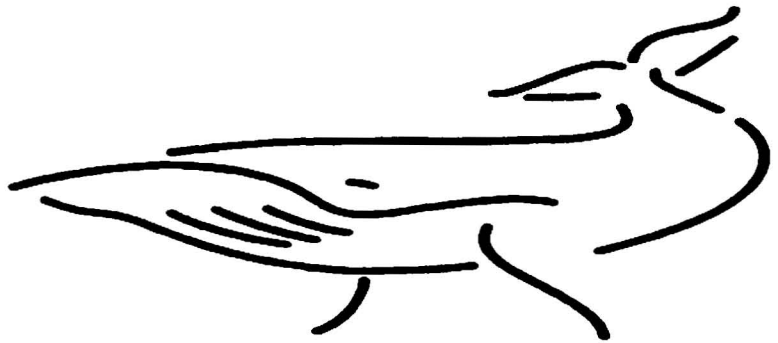
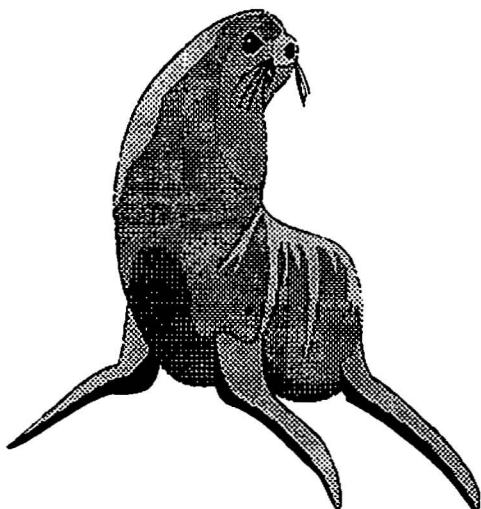
...Esta Lee Albright

The following is an explanation and description of colored flipper tags frequently seen on California sea lions within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) and who to contact for reporting these tags. Two tags of identical color and number are normally located on the front flippers and display a unique number for that animal. In addition to tags, some sea lions carry a second different number as a brand on their shoulder or rump. Each tag number and brand number is unique to an individual sea lion so that researchers can track and record the range and activities of an animal throughout its lifetime.

Numbered yellow tags on the front flippers indicate that a second different number should appear as a large brand on the sea lion's left shoulder. NMFS researchers place these tags and brands on 4-6 month-old sea lions at San Miguel Island in southern California.

Numbered white tags are located on the front flippers. These are placed on adult female and juvenile sea lions in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary for special studies. Another set of large white tags were placed on adult male sea lions along with rump brands to identify individuals in studies of foraging behavior in Washington State and British Columbia.

(continued on page 7)



Hot International Whaling Commission Issues Tuna/Dolphin ~ Power Shift in Coastal Commission

...Barbara Britten

California Gray Whale Quota: The U.S. is facing another possibly embarrassing situation after the long years' hiatus since the thorny Alaskan bowhead issue loomed so large on the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) agendas during the late 1970's and early 1980's. This time the "aboriginal take" request for five California gray whales comes from a small Washington State tribe, the Makah. The tribe claims its whale hunting rights under specific wording in the 19th century treaty between the tribe and the U.S. government.

The U.S. IWC officials are also facing the almost universal opposition of the U.S. non-governmental organization (NGO) community as well as most of the NGO's from the other countries at the Aberdeen meeting.

Norway is experiencing broad condemnation for having raised the ante on the contentious issue of "scientific" whaling by substantially increasing its self-imposed quota for this year's hunt. In 1995, Norway granted itself a quota of 232 minke whales; the 1996 quota is 425. Furthermore, Norway continues to be criticized for the accuracy of its science, specifically the population of the Northeastern stock of minke whales.

Tuna/Dolphin: Over the last few weeks, during these now-waning days of the 104th Congress, there has been little visible legislative action on this long-running problem. The Senate Commerce Committee voted out the administration bill on an unrecorded voice vote. There

was also a gathering, sponsored by Senate staff, to attempt to find common ground among the interested parties, to resolve the impasse that has arisen. There were representatives of the conflicting environmental groups, canners, fishing interests, etc. but no progress was reported.

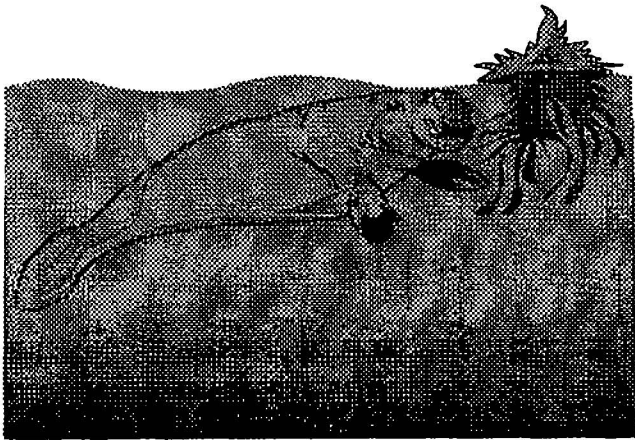
At the end of June the July 4 recess closed Congress's legislative schedule down until July 8. It is reported that Speaker Gingrich has told the House Resources Committee Chair that he, Gingrich, will bring the Gilchrest administration bill to the floor for a vote before the long August break begins. As usual, this can be as ephemeral as many other such reports have been and most of us will believe it when we see it.

Coastal Commission: For the first time in its 24-year history, the Coastal Commission will have an eight to four Republican majority. This is a result of the change in political party control of the Assembly from Democratic to Republican. The four new appointments were made by Assembly Speaker Curt Pringle. Two of the four new commissioners have been involved in protracted and acrimonious confrontations with the Commission, mainly over "property rights" decisions. (The Senate Rules Committee appoints four members and the Governor the remaining four voting members)

This body has a somewhat stormy past and has been accused of all kinds of bias in some of its decision. The Coastal

(continued on page 7)

CAUSE OF MANATEE DEATHS FOUND



According to an AP story from St. Petersburg, Florida, a natural outbreak of red tide is the main cause for the deaths of 158 manatees. This finding is good news because it rules out infectious disease and the fear that these gentle animals aren't in any danger of infecting themselves or carrying it to other areas. The bad news is that because it was a natural occurrence, there is no guarantee it won't happen again.

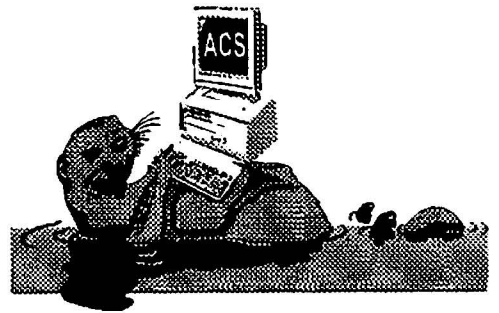
The red tide, a toxic micro-organism accumulating in shellfish, was the worst it had been since 1982, when there was a similar die-off of manatees. So far, for 1996, 304 manatees have died in southwest Florida. Many of them were either hit by motorboats or succumbed to

the harsh weather. But 158 of those animals died between March 5 and April 27. At the time there was no apparent reason. Now scientists know it was because of the red tide.

The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention sent scientists to the area to discover the cause.

Initially, they felt the red tide was not responsible because the rate of death was faster than it normally is in a red tide die-off and suspected a viral infection. After intensive study, scientists now believe the manatees were forced to warmer waters because of harsh weather, where they were exposed to larger quantities of the red tide in their natural food of sea grass.

Manatees have inhabited the waters off Florida for the past 45 million years. They normally migrate between the Carolinas and Florida. Because of increasing cohabitation with humans, their numbers have dwindled to about 2,600.



Emul Otter's e-mail address will stay the same for another month at:

104261.757@compuserve.com

Emul was too busy getting over jet lag to change addresses. Look for a change next month however.

Speaking of Emul's jet lag, he tried real hard to meet some of his Atlantic cousins in Scotland. However, he would have had to get up at daybreak to find them, and since that is at about 4:00 am, he couldn't do it. He got to see some grey seals and puffins at a great distance. Unfortunately, no photos. Still working on getting some.

Stay tuned for some info on Scotland next month.

And for those of you who may have misplaced the web site address:

<http://www.redshift.com/~estarr/acs>
Lots of great info!

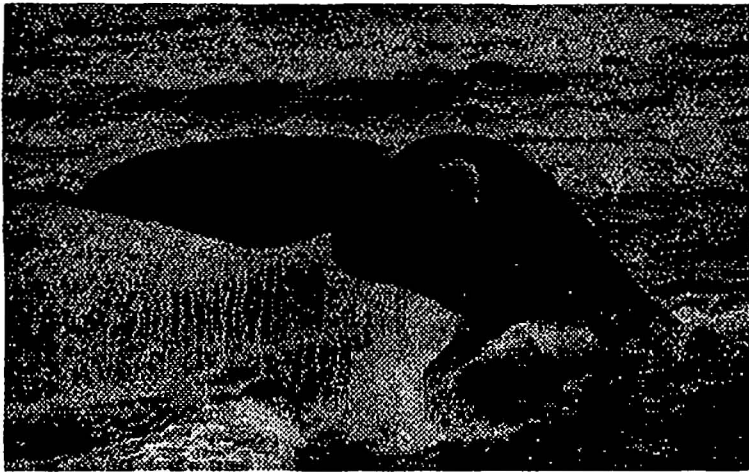
NEW HOME

Bob, foreground, meets sea lion friends in his new home yesterday at Sea World of Florida. He and two other sea lions from Seattle were granted a reprieve after previously being authorized for extermination. Fifty sea lions and seals live in the Pacific Point Preserve, a sophisticated habitat

(reprinted from The Monterey County Herald, Friday, July 5, 1996-Associated Press)



NAME THAT ANIMAL

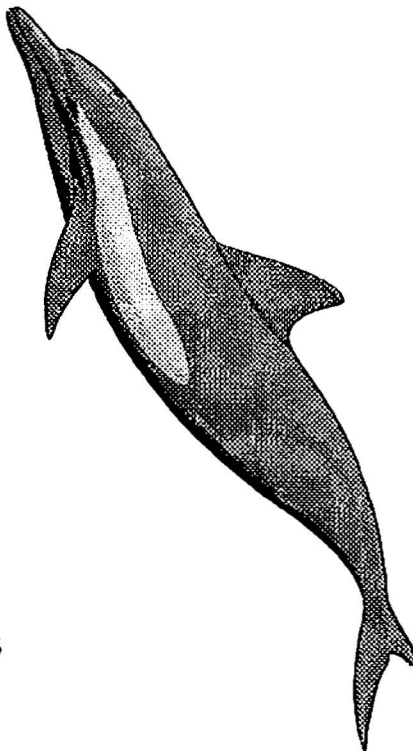


Do you know which whale this fluke belongs to?
If not, the answer will appear in next month's
newsletter along with a new animal to identify.

New Director for SPCA Wildlife Center

Libby Osnes-Erie, a past vice-president of ACS Monterey Bay Chapter, has been working with the Beachwatch volunteers. She received an ACS grant for her research on common dolphins and recently gave a program at the Monterey Bay Chapter's monthly meeting called, Common Dolphins, the Long and Short of it.

Libby has just been named director of the Wildlife Center of SPCA of Monterey County. Before that, she was stranding coordinator for Moss Landing Marine Lab. Libby can be contacted at e-mail: skathey@lobos.mbnms, or PO Box 3058, Monterey, CA 93942 (408) 373-2631 or 372-7466.



The following information is provided by Beachwatch, a part of ACS Monterey Bay Chapter.

HOW TO HELP A MARINE MAMMAL ON THE BEACH

FIRST: Stay away! It's safer for you and the animal, and it's the law!

Watch and collect information:

Identify the animal. How do you know?
How big is the animal? - as big as you?
Where is it? Be as specific as possible
How long has it been there? Ask others.
Are there any visible injuries? If tagged, note location, color, number.
How active or vocal is the animal? Note any changes
Are there people or dogs around it?

SECOND: Call one of these numbers:

SPCA of Monterey County (408)373-2631
Off hours (408)646-5534

Marine Mammal Center (415)289-7325

Moss Landing Marine Lab (408)755-8660

Long Marine Lab (Santa Cruz) (408)459- 2883

THIRD: Give your name and telephone number to the agency; you may be able to supply additional information later

Thank you. Your help is appreciated!

Sea Lion Tagging (cont)

Numbered red or orange tags are located on the front flippers. These tags are placed on sick or injured sea lions that have been rehabilitated and released by approved marine mammal rehabilitation centers.

Most tags and brands are placed on sea lions by researchers from the National Marine Mammal Lab of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). NMFS is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a federal agency, and is responsible for protecting marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). NMFS researches tag sea lions and other marine mammals to study their migratory and distribution patterns, life spans, and other aspects of their life histories. Some universities, research institutions, and rehabilitation centers are authorized by NMFS to tag animals for related research purposes or to assist NMFS in its marine mammal management goals.

If you see a sea lion with colored tags or

a brand on its shoulder or rump, you can contribute directly to the continued protection and scientific study of this animal. Record the 1) color of the tag, 2) the number of the tag or the number and body location (shoulder or rump) of the brand, 3) the date the animal was seen, and 4) the location where the animal was seen. Then provide the information by letter, FAX, or phone to:

Dr. Robert DeLong
National Marine Mammal
Laboratory
National Marine Fisheries
Service
Building 4, F/AKC3
7600 Sand Point Way, NE
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

PHONE: (206) 526-4038

FAX: (206) 526-6615



Hot Issues (cont.)

Commission has also been accused of receiving inadequate or sometimes too detailed advice from its staff. These perceptions undoubtedly will not change as its duties almost guarantee controversy. As with all public policy decision-making institutions, the responsibility to follow proceedings falls on the concerned and interested public in order to have any influence on ultimate decisions.

(As Marine Environment Consultant for the ACS Monterey Bay, Barbara Britten provides our chapter with current reports on conservation and environmental public policy issues. Barbara was ACS Nations's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years before moving to the Davis, CA area. She was recently appointed by President Clinton as the sole environmentalist represented on the 4-member U.S. delegation to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission [IATTC])

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

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Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



Monterey Bay Chapter
August 1996

The ACS Monterey Bay Chapter Newsletter

"It's too darned hot, we're movin' north," and other explanations of faunal change at Hopkins Marine Station



Photo courtesy of Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford University Bulletin 1975

"A sixty-year comparison of tide pool animals shows the impact of global warming on Monterey Bay shores," is the premise for the August lecture offered by the ACS Monterey Bay Chapter. Rafe D. Sagarin, of the University of California at Santa Barbara and Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University will be speaking on Thursday, August 29, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall, Monterey Boatworks, Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove.

A transect carried out by Hopkins graduate student Willis Hewatt in 1931-1933 in the intertidal region was re-surveyed in 1993-1994. The astonishing changes brought about in the intervening years show a complete shift from an invertebrate fauna dominated by cold water species typically found in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. These have been replaced by a suite of species typical of the warmer regions of Southern California. The study considered short-term shifts brought about by El Ninos, but instead showed that the change pointed to a gradual, incremental switch.

The study demonstrates the importance of long-term research as well as the critical need for undisturbed marine life refuges where such work may be carried

out. The results when published in Science magazine, February 3, 1995, provoked widespread interest. One hopes that

comparable studies will now be done in other ocean basins. Our speaker continues to study such changes, which could have consequences for the distribution of marine mammals and seabirds, as well as impacts on fisheries. Please join us for a thought-provoking program.

ALL-DAY MARINE MAMMAL CRUISE PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 7

An all-day marine mammal cruise has been scheduled for Saturday, September 7, 1996. Alan Baldridge and other naturalists will be on board to offer explanations and background information concerning the marine mammals, birds, and other creatures encountered.

Cetaceans observed in summer and fall cruises in recent years include humpback whales, blue whales, Dall's porpoises riding the bow wave, Pacific white-sided dolphins, minke whales, and numerous common dolphins. Sea lions, harbor seals, and sea otters are among the other marine mammals frequently spotted.

Birds likely to be seen include pelicans, gulls, cormorants, common murre, black-

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footed albatross, sooty and pink-footed shearwaters, phalaropes, and terns. Leatherback turtles have also been seen and last year the participants were treated to a close-up view of a huge ocean sunfish (mola mola).

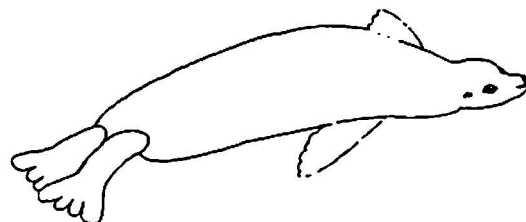
This cruise raises funds for the local ACS chapter, supporting research grants and other ACS activities. Participants should be on board by 7:30 a.m. to prepare for an 8 a.m. departure from Monterey Sport Fishing on Fisherman's Wharf. The cruise will end at 3 p.m. The cost is \$40 for ACS members and \$50 for non-members. For additional details contact Debbie Ternullo at (408) 373-4281.

MARINE MAMMAL SIGHTINGS JUNE 28 ~ JULY 25

This reporting period has seen an increase in the number of blue whales and the regular sightings of humpback whales. Minke whales are becoming more regular along the coast, usually near shore. The best places to try

for a shore sighting would be from Pt. Pinos, Cypress Pt., Pt. Lobos, and vistas along Highway 1. The next best bet is the ACS fund raising whale watching trip in September! (see related article on Page 1) Among small cetaceans, the lack of

large numbers and diversity is characteristic for this time of year. Both parameters should change positively as we head into the time of the year that the upwelling effects disappear.



DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
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BLUE WHALE

6/29	1	Near Pt. Lobos	RO
7/3	2	7.5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	HN
7/12	1	Near Pt. Sur	CD
7/25	1-2	5.5 mi. W Pt. Pinos	MBW

There were also about 20 humpback whales in the area.

HUMPBACK WHALE

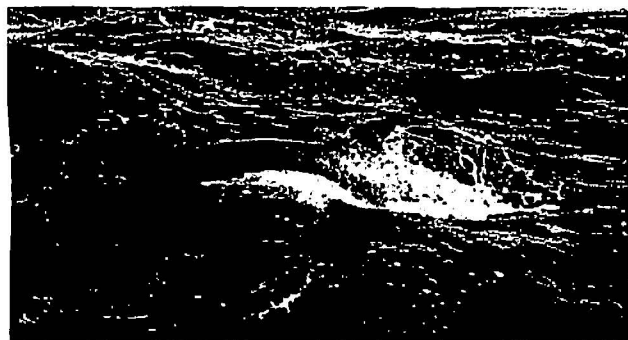
There are forty-one sightings of up to twenty whales. Although the whales are moving on a daily basis, there are two areas of high use: approximately 2-5 miles offshore of Fort Ord and about 1-6 miles offshore from Cypress Pt. This month has also seen the first "friendly encounter" by a whale involving a close and extended approach on the part of the whale this year.

MINKE WHALE

7/3	1	5.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	DG
7/15	1	2 mi. W Soldier's Club	NL
7/15	1	3.5 mi. NW Monterey Breakwater	RT
7/16	1	3.6 mi. NW Monterey Breakwater	RT
7/17	1	1 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	LO
7/24	1	1.5 mi. N Lover's Pt.	JW
7/25	1	1.5 mi. N Lover's Pt.	MBW

KILLER WHALE

6/28	4	9 mi. S Santa Cruz	WW
7/12	2	Near Pt. Sur	CD



DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
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PACIFIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN

Also seen nearly daily almost everywhere in Monterey Bay, usually in small groups of 5-20. They can be seen in groups as large as 500. They are often associated with humpback whales.

NORTHERN RIGHT WHALE DOLPHIN

6/27	10-20	6 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	RT
7/14	150	4 mi. NW Cypress Pt.	RT

Along with 150 Pacific white-sided dolphins and 4 humpback whales.

DALL'S PORPOISE

6/27	3-4	4 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	RT
7/1	8-10	3 mi. W Cypress Pt.	RT
7/7	8-10	3 mi. NW Cypress Pt.	RT
7/12	50	4 mi. W Pt. Pinos	JW

In association with 12-15 humpback whales and 50 Pacific white-sided dolphins. Possible mating/arousal noted from humpback whales(!)

7/12	5+4	9 mi. S Santa Cruz	RT
7/12	20-30	6.5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	RT
7/24	6-8+4+4+5	Along South Canyon Edge	MBW

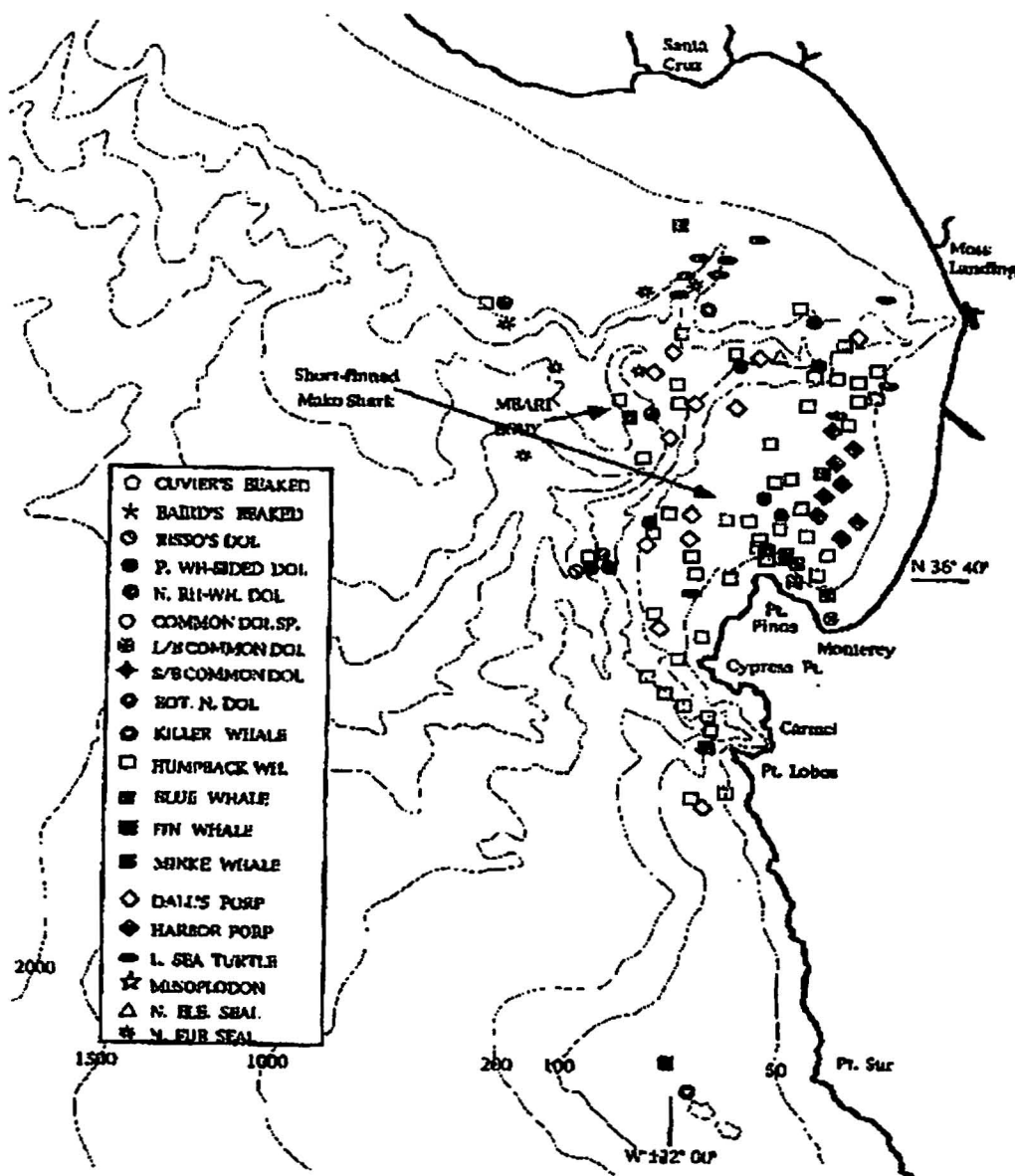
HARBOR PORPOISE

6/29	25-30	1.5 mi. W Salinas R.	RT
7/24	2-4	2.5 mi. W Marina Beach	RT

CALIFORNIA SEA LION

About 500 are found in and about Monterey harbor hauled out on the breakwater or boats moored in the harbor.

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.	DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
HARBOR SEAL				LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLE			
Seen in Monterey harbor and along rocky coast to Pt. Lobos and in Elkhorn Slough.				7/5	2	5.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	BH
NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL				7/19	1	Soquel Canyon	KS
7/19	1	5 mi. SW Moss Landing	WW	7/19	1	5 mi. S Santa Cruz	RT
NORTHERN FUR SEAL				7/19	1	6 mi. S Santa Cruz	NL
6/26	1+	Seen offshore daily all week	Mobs	7/20	1	3 mi. NW Moss Landing	RO
7/5	1	5.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	EP	7/20	1	2 mi. W Salinas R.	HN
SOUTHERN (CALIFORNIA) SEA OTTER				7/20	1	3.5 mi. W Marina Beach	LO
Found along the coast in kelp beds and the margins of Monterey Bay and in Elkhorn Slough.				7/25	1	6 mi. S Santa Cruz	WW
KEY TO OBSERVERS							
CD=C.Dennie, DG=D.Giblin, BH=B.Howsman, NL=N.Lemon, MBW=Monterey Bay Whalewatch, HN=H.Neece, LO=L.Oliver, RO=R.Ortiz, EP=E.Pieracci, KS=K.Stagnaro, RT=R.Ternullo, JW=J.Williamson, WW=W.Williamson							



Errata and Triviata

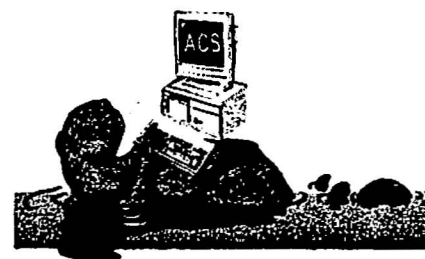
Because of a death in the family last month, I was not able to double check some information I passed on.

Libby Osnes-Erie's e-mail address is actually osnes_erie@mlml.calstate.edu. Sorry skathey, for the inconvenience to you. Also, Libby's new title at the SPCA is Wildlife Center Supervisor and the phone number listed was incorrect. The number is actually 373-2631 ext. 227.

Emul Otter's new e-mail address is leos@mbay.net. And, as always, the e-mail address for ACS is <http://www.redshift.com/~estarr/acs>

Welcome

A hearty welcome to new member Ann Bauer who is the Education Director at the Marine Mammal Center in Novato.



Tuna/Dolphin: House Approves Administration Bill (H.R. 2823, Saxton/Gilchrest)

...Barbara Britten

This much-discussed bill cleared the House by a 316-108 vote in a session lasting over three hours on July 31, 1996. In setting the rules for the debate, the Rules Committee made an unexpected move by allowing only one (predetermined) amendment, a substitute drafted by Rep. Studds (D MA) on behalf of the bill's sizable opposition. No other amendments were allowed. The three equal segments were divided allowing on hour for debate on the rule, one hour for the Studds Amendment and one for H.R. 2823.

The debate on the rule was spent mostly on substantive issues. Even though there was considerable dissension, it was adopted by a voice vote. The focus of disagreement with H.R. 2823 has been on the change in the labeling language of what products can be labeled "dolphin safe."

The Studds substitute amendment consists of the addition of only six words to be added after the word "killed," to read: "...that no tuna can be labeled 'dolphin safe' if the observers certify that

no dolphins were 'killed, chased, harassed or encircled with nets.'" While the bill's opponents (and Studds' supporters) concede that commendable improvement in dolphin mortality has been achieved (fewer than 3,600 in 1995 in the eastern Pacific) there remains unknown, but high mortality each year as a result of the stress-induced harassment and encirclement.

Little research has been done on this stress factor. The one peer-reviewed article cited by Studds has been criticized as inadequate by a five-member panel convened by the National Academy of Sciences, according to the bill's author, Rep. Gilchrest. Other Studds Amendment supporters discussed what they call the "environmental blackmail" practiced by the Latin countries that are members of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and other countries that are "threatening to ignore all former restrictions, with no limit to the amount of kill." Tied in with the blackmail theme was the assertion that the under-lying motive for the U.S.

promotion of the bill and the Panama Declaration is to kowtow to Latin and other countries in fear of NAFTA or World Trade Organization action. After this lively and wide-ranging debate, the Studds Substitute Amendment was defeated 260-161.

In the third hour of the discussion of H.R. 2923, the bill's proponents concurred in support of the goal of zero dolphin mortality as do the nations that have signed on to the La Jolla Agreement of 1992 and the Panama Declaration of 1995. All these measures have included strong support for more research on the stress factor, alternative gear and other possible mitigating measures. The main concern is to retain, improve and codify the multinational support for the considerable success already achieved citing the highly migratory nature of the target species and the many nations involved in the industry. Also noted was the fact few people realize, the official estimates that dolphin mortality in the western Pacific where there is much tuna

(continued on page 5)

SEA OTTERS OF THE PACIFIC RIM ~ THREATS AND CONSERVATION NEEDS

Guest speaker, Ellen Faurot-Danials, presented "Sea Otters of the Pacific Rim: Threats and Conservation Needs." Ellen is the Science

Director of Friends of the Sea Otter and former employee of the Department of Fish and Game.

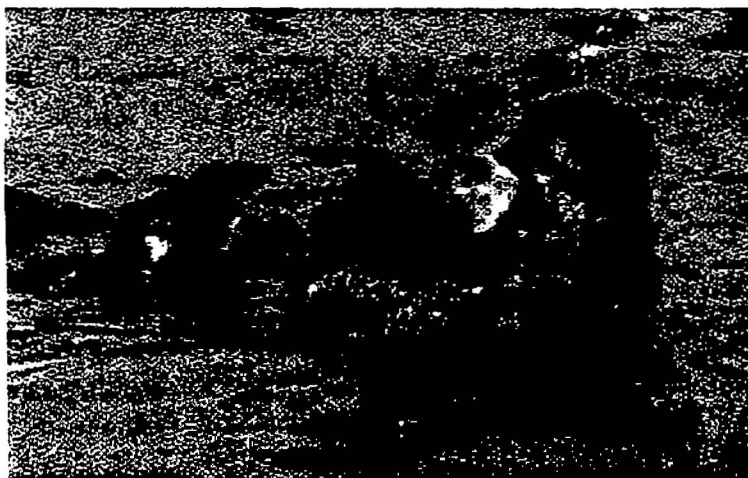
Ellen's presentation began with an

overview of the distribution and population status of sea otters, both past and present. Our species of sea otter occurs only in the north Pacific and nowhere else. Its original range extended from the waters of Japan, up and around the Aleutian Islands

of Alaska, down the Alaskan peninsula and west coasts of Canada, the United States, and Baja California, Mexico. Throughout its range (both past and present) the sea otter is actually represented by three sub-species: the group around Japan, the Alaskan group, and the California group. She pointed out that there is enough genetic variation to warrant the separation of the three groups, though taxonomists remind researchers and students that there are no real visual differences in the animals.

Ellen next concentrated her discussion on the range/population size of the groups based on the most recent estimates. The current total north Pacific population is

(continued on page 5)





Sea Otters of the Pacific Rim

(cont. from page 4)

estimated to be somewhere in the range of from 100 to 150 thousand animals.

Researchers put the California count at about 2,300 animals, 395 off Washington, 1,650 in British Columbia waters, 10,000 along the Alaskan Peninsula, and approximately six to 10 thousand in and around the Prince William Sound.

Various sets of regulations protect the animals depending upon the area(s) where the animals are to be found. The main point of Ellen's discussion on this point was that people need to be aware of this difference and not assume that a 'uniform blanket' protection strategy exists. As an example, the California sea otter is currently considered "threatened." Protective measures for this group of animals, based on its population size and distribution, are different from those of other areas (such as the state of Alaska). In Alaska, because of the large size of the population, there isn't as much of a concern, although the approach by officials is cautious. Native American Alaskans take approximately 200 to 300 animals per year. They do this, however, under the guidance of a fairly strict set of regulations and rules.

In the state of Washington, a major concern exists dealing with the movement of otters into an area where the local native tribes have established a sea urchin fishery. Naturally, the locals fear that the movement of otters into this area will have negative effects upon the population of urchins. As such, there is much debate taking place on how to deal with this problem should it materialize as predicted or feared by the locals. The Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service are not in agreement.

Ellen's final major area of coverage

addressed the California population. The California population has grown at about 5% per year. When compared to the growth rate of otter populations in other areas, California's growth rate is slower. In Washington the growth rate typically has ranged from 15 to 20% per year. There have been various reasons proposed to explain the slower California population growth rate. One reason is that the range within California waters has not increased that much with the past decade. Another reason points out that a slow growth rate is due to a higher pup mortality in California waters than in other areas. Ellen pointed out that the slow growth rate is not due to a decreased reproductive rate. She also briefly touched upon the occurrence of infectious diseases afflicting sea otters and that dead otters found on California's coast have had a higher occurrence of these diseases.

Various possible "recovery" plans for California's sea otters were summarized by Ellen to end her presentation. These include plans to handle an oil spill event of the magnitude of the infamous Exxon Valdez spill. Computer models are currently being developed to predict oil spill movement and its influence on plant and animal life along the entire California coastline.

(Photographs courtesy of the Friends of the Sea Otter)

Tuna/Dolphin Conflict

(cont. from page 4)

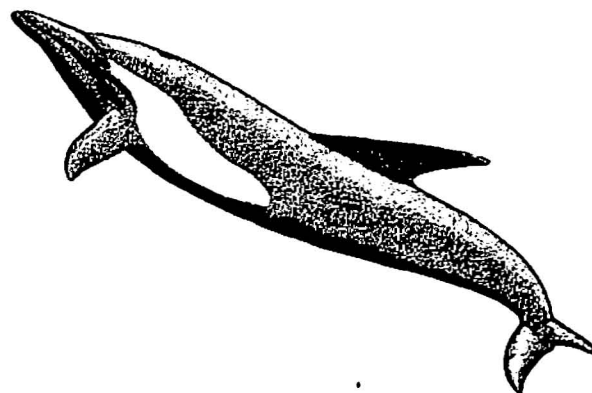
fishing, has risen to an annual rate of 10 - 40,000 animals. No observers are placed on any of those boats to monitor the dolphin deaths.

Other proponents cited the use of a multi-species, ecosystem management approach rather than the more commonly practiced single-species management schemes, which seem to be losing favor among marine scientists and others concerned with ocean ecology and biodiversity. In that connection, several members mentioned the huge bycatch of many non-target, sometimes-endangered species caught in conjunction with tuna when alternatives to purse-seining are used (e.g. raft or buoy fishing).

Thousands of billfish, sharks, immature or juvenile yellowfin and other tuna, and sea turtles are landed and discarded. Studies seem to indicate that there is minimal bycatch in connection with purse-seining.

After an equally lively and wide-ranging debate, H.R 2923 was passed as noted above. Incidentally, except when members had to be present for the two recorded votes, not more than 20 or 25 members were present during the debate.

(Barbara Britten is Marine Environment Consultant for the ACS Monterey Bay Chapter and provides our chapter with current reports on conservation and environmental public policy issues. Barbara was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years before moving to the Davis, CA area. She was recently appointed by President Clinton as the sole environmentalist representative on the 4-member U.S. delegation to the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission [IATTC])



European Marine Mammals

...Maura Leos

Recently Rob and I traveled to Scotland and England. While there we wanted to see and photograph some marine mammals to share with all of you. Unfortunately, time and money constraints did not allow for this. We were able, however, to observe from a distance some Atlantic gray seals, some puffins, an oyster farm, and some salmon farms. Salmon farming is quite an industry in Scotland. We also got to see quite a few fishing boats. An interesting phenomenon in Scotland is that there are no slips in a marina for the boats, so when the tide is out the boats just lie over on their keels. Maybe they are keeled over drunk?

We did get to watch the fishing fleet leave for fishing while we were in Oban. They left around 3:00 a.m. while it was still dark. Some things never change no matter what part of the world one is in. If I paid no attention to my surroundings, I felt as if I were here in Monterey. Of course, here most of the fishermen are coming in to land fish at that hour.

The Isle of Mull and surrounding islands and waters are a plethora of marine animals. Many visit (even in the dead of winter) to go birding and whale watching. The Trishnish Isles and other little islands are home to otters and flocks of puffins. The Hebridean Whale Watching Trust offers a Whale Centre with guided tours, library, video footage of cetaceans, and acoustics.



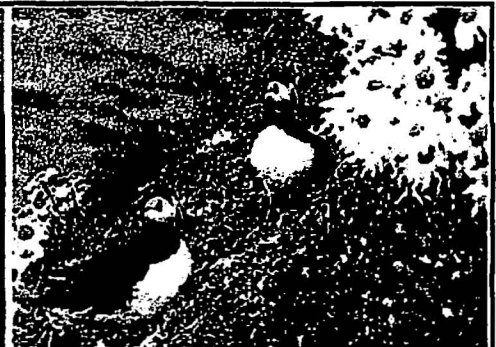
courtesy of John Porter and the Mull Page on the world wide web



Ferry dock - Craignure, Isle of Mull



Fish farm - Pennycross, Isle of Mull



Photos courtesy of John Porter of Dervaig, Isle of Mull, author of the Mull Home Page



Blue Whales Gather

According to an article that appeared in the Monterey County Herald on Monday, July 22, 1996, there appears to be a large gathering of blue whales off the southern California coast over the last few years which has attracted many scientists.

The blue whale is the world's largest animal and is currently on the endangered species list having been placed there in 1966. These whales have gathered in large numbers off the coast of Santa Barbara in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

Using six vessels, biologists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are tagging and tracing the whales. Researchers and a 300-foot floating laboratory vessel from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in La Jolla, California along with the 180-foot NOAA research vessel the David Starr Jordan are involved in this project.

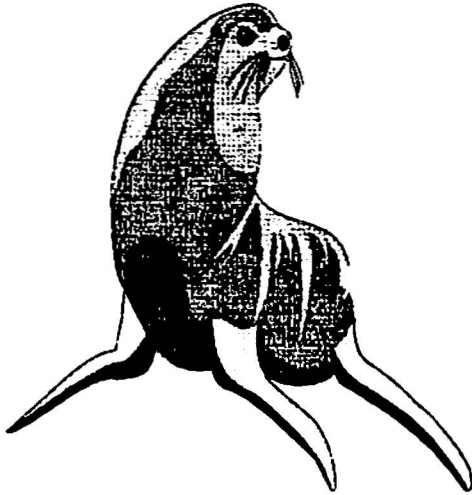
So far (as of July 22, 1996) three blue whales have been successfully tagged and followed.

An increase in the numbers of blue whales off the coast of California was first noticed in 1991, with a 1993 study indicating about 2,000 animals out there. Scientists believe a one-time world wide population of approximately 400,000 has been reduced to around 12,000.

Blue whales feed on krill, a small, bright red crustacean similar to shrimp. Scientists believe plentiful krill is the reason for so many animals in the area. But since this is not the only place where there is an abundance of krill, the scientists wonder if there are others factors that have drawn the whales to the sanctuary.

This study is scheduled to conclude by August 2.

Sea Lions Visit Monterey Bay



During June and July a large (very large) number of one and two year old sea lions from the Channel Islands decided to vacation in Monterey. At one point there were upwards of 1500 to 2500 animals hauling out on the Coast Guard jetty, the wharf, boats, the shore, the recreation trail, picnic tables, benches, and anywhere they could find empty space.

Many thanks need to go to the diligent volunteers who spent so many hours keeping the sea lion/human interaction to a minimum. The potential for some serious encounters was great and due to constant vigilance, no serious injuries occurred.

There is much speculation as to why these animals were here. Some say because the water and air temperatures down south were too warm. The sea lions

were not famished as is typical of this kind of migration in the past.

In July, the animals decided it was time to go home so they left. Finally. There are still a good number of sea lions hauling out here, but they are the usual guys who are always around.

Another potential problem is the step some boat owners may be taking to keep the sea lions off their vessels. They are constructing nail boards and attaching these to the boats to keep the sea lions from jumping on board. According to Roy Torres, Special Agent, National Marine Fisheries Service, so far this is not illegal as no animal have been injured by it. However, he is watching the situation closely and as soon as any injuries occur, the vessel owners will be held accountable.

Monterey Bay Chapter's Board Members for 1996

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Tom Kieckhefer	9433 Holly Hill Dr.	Salinas, 93907	663-3813
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Jud Vandevere	93 Via Ventura	Monterey, 93940	372-6001
Steven Webster	210 Asilomar Ave.	Pacific Grove, 93950	373-7676(h), 647-4864(w)
Tom Williams	2381 Fairfield Pl.	Carmel, 93923	375-5570

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Chapter: #24 Monterey

Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational, and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Marine Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker, 373-2274.

Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



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Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



Monterey Bay Chapter
August 1996

The ACS Monterey Bay Chapter Newsletter

"It's too darned hot, we're movin' north," and other explanations of faunal change at Hopkins Marine Station

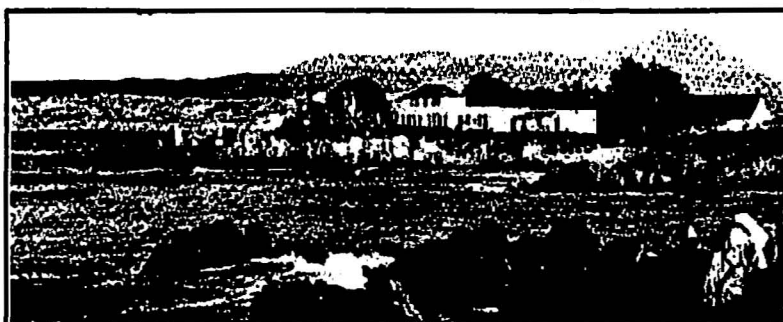


Photo courtesy of Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford University Bulletin 1975

"A sixty-year comparison of tide pool animals shows the impact of global warming on Monterey Bay shores," is the premise for the August lecture offered by the ACS Monterey Bay Chapter. Rafe D. Sagarin, of the University of California at Santa Barbara and Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University will be speaking on Thursday, August 29, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall, Monterey Boatworks, Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove.

A transect carried out by Hopkins graduate student Willis Hewatt in 1931-1933 in the intertidal region was re-surveyed in 1993-1994. The astonishing changes brought about in the intervening years show a complete shift from an invertebrate fauna dominated by cold water species typically found in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. These have been replaced by a suite of species typical of the warmer regions of Southern California. The study considered short-term shifts brought about by El Ninos, but instead showed that the change pointed to a gradual, incremental switch.

The study demonstrates the importance of long-term research as well as the critical need for undisturbed marine life refuges where such work may be carried

out. The results when published in Science magazine, February 3, 1995, provoked widespread interest. One hopes that comparable studies will now be done in other ocean basins.

Our speaker continues to study such changes, which could have consequences for the distribution of marine mammals and seabirds, as well as impacts on fisheries. Please join us for a thought-provoking program.

ALL-DAY MARINE MAMMAL CRUISE PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 7

An all-day marine mammal cruise has been scheduled for Saturday, September 7, 1996. Alan Baldridge and other naturalists will be on board to offer explanations and background information concerning the marine mammals, birds, and other creatures encountered.

Cetaceans observed in summer and fall cruises in recent years include humpback whales, blue whales, Dall's porpoises riding the bow wave, Pacific white-sided dolphins, minke whales, and numerous common dolphins. Sea lions, harbor seals, and sea otters are among the other marine mammals frequently spotted.

Birds likely to be seen include pelicans, gulls, cormorants, common murres, black-

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footed albatross, sooty and pink-footed shearwaters, phalaropes, and terns. Leatherback turtles have also been seen and last year the participants were treated to a close-up view of a huge ocean sunfish (mola mola).

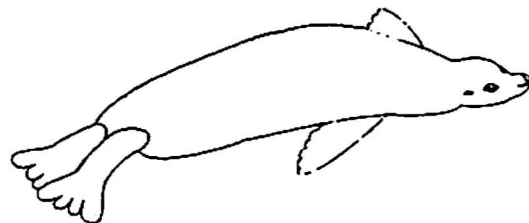
This cruise raises funds for the local ACS chapter, supporting research grants and other ACS activities. Participants should be on board by 7:30 a.m. to prepare for an 8 a.m. departure from Monterey Sport Fishing on Fisherman's Wharf. The cruise will end at 3 p.m. The cost is \$40 for ACS members and \$50 for non-members. For additional details contact Debbie Ternullo at (408) 373-4281.

MARINE MAMMAL SIGHTINGS JUNE 28 ~ JULY 25

This reporting period has seen an increase in the number of blue whales and the regular sightings of humpback whales. Minke whales are becoming more regular along the coast, usually near shore. The best places to try

for a shore sighting would be from Pt. Pinos, Cypress Pt., Pt. Lobos, and vistas along Highway 1. The next best bet is the ACS fund raising whale watching trip in September! (see related article on Page 1) Among small cetaceans, the lack of

large numbers and diversity is characteristic for this time of year. Both parameters should change positively as we head into the time of the year that the upwelling effects disappear.



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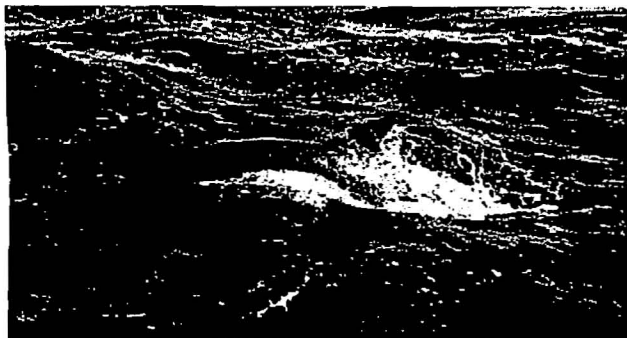
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7/12	20-30	6.5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	RT
7/24	6-8+4+4+5	Along South Canyon Edge	MBW

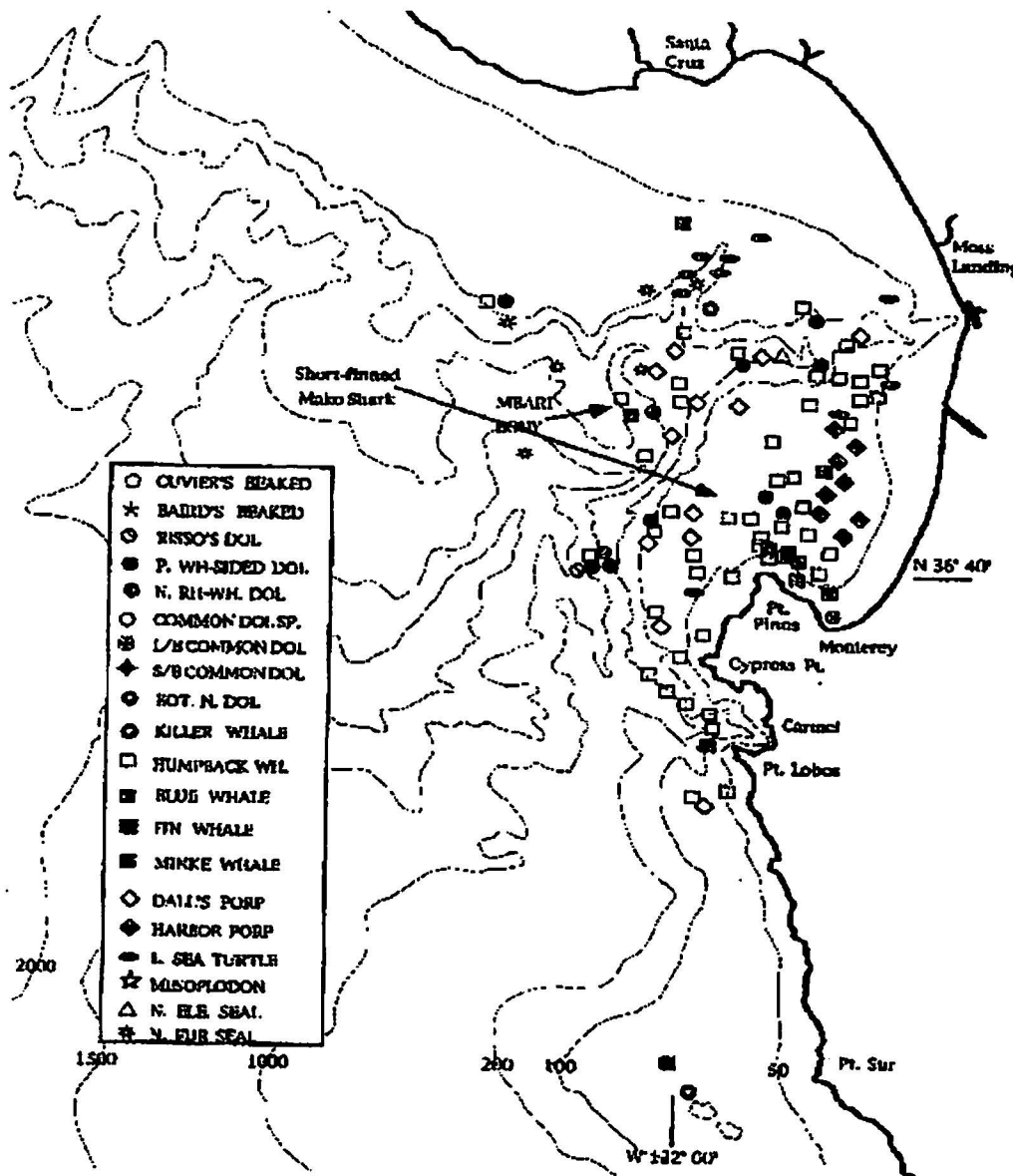
HARBOR PORPOISE

6/29	25-30	1.5 mi. W Salinas R.	RT
7/24	2-4	2.5 mi. W Marina Beach	RT

CALIFORNIA SEA LION

About 500 are found in and about Monterey harbor hauled out on the breakwater or boats moored in the harbor.

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.	DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
HARBOR SEAL				LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLE			
Seen in Monterey harbor and along rocky coast to Pt. Lobos and in Elkhorn Slough.				7/5	2	5.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	BH
NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL				7/19	1	Soquel Canyon	KS
7/19	1	5 mi. SW Moss Landing	WW	7/19	1	5 mi. S Santa Cruz	RT
NORTHERN FUR SEAL				7/19	1	6 mi. S Santa Cruz	NL
6/26	1+	Seen offshore daily all week	Mobs	7/20	1	3 mi. NW Moss Landing	RO
7/5	1	5.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	EP	7/20	1	2 mi. W Salinas R.	HN
SOUTHERN (CALIFORNIA) SEA OTTER				7/20	1	3.5 mi. W Marina Beach	LO
Found along the coast in kelp beds and the margins of Monterey Bay and in Elkhorn Slough.				7/25	1	6 mi. S Santa Cruz	WW
				KEY TO OBSERVERS			
				CD=C.Dennie, DG=D.Giblin, BH=B.Howsman, NL=N.Lemon,			
				MBW=Monterey Bay Whalewatch, HN=H.Neece, LO=L.Oliver,			
				RO=R.Ortiz, EP=E.Pieracci, KS=K.Stagnaro, RT=R.Ternullo,			
				JW=J.Williamson, WW=W.Williamson			



Errata and Triviata

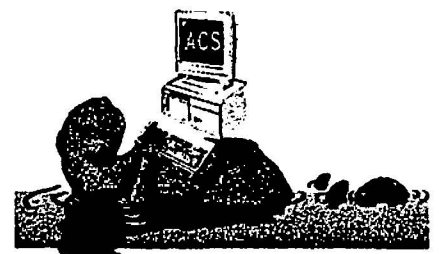
Because of a death in the family last month, I was not able to double check some information I passed on.

Libby Osnes-Erie's e-mail address is actually osnes_erie@mml.calstate.edu. Sorry skathey, for the inconvenience to you. Also, Libby's new title at the SPCA is Wildlife Center Supervisor and the phone number listed was incorrect. The number is actually 373-2631 ext. 227.

Emul Otter's new e-mail address is leos@mbay.net. And, as always, the e-mail address for ACS is <http://www.redshift.com-estarr/acs>

Welcome

A hearty welcome to new member Ann Bauer who is the Education Director at the Marine Mammal Center in Novato.



Tuna/Dolphin: House Approves Administration Bill (H.R. 2823, Saxton/Gilchrest)

...Barbara Britten

This much-discussed bill cleared the House by a 316-108 vote in a session lasting over three hours on July 31, 1996. In setting the rules for the debate, the Rules Committee made an unexpected move by allowing only one (predetermined) amendment, a substitute drafted by Rep. Studds (D MA) on behalf of the bill's sizable opposition. No other amendments were allowed. The three equal segments were divided allowing one hour for debate on the rule, one hour for the Studds Amendment and one for H.R. 2823.

The debate on the rule was spent mostly on substantive issues. Even though there was considerable dissension, it was adopted by a voice vote. The focus of disagreement with H.R. 2823 has been on the change in the labeling language of what products can be labeled "dolphin safe."

The Studds substitute amendment consists of the addition of only six words to be added after the word "killed," to read: "...that no tuna can be labeled 'dolphin safe' if the observers certify that

no dolphins were "killed, chased, harassed or encircled with nets." While the bill's opponents (and Studds' supporters) concede that commendable improvement in dolphin mortality has been achieved (fewer than 3,600 in 1995 in the eastern Pacific) there remains unknown, but high mortality each year as a result of the stress-induced harassment and encirclement.

Little research has been done on this stress factor. The one peer-reviewed article cited by Studds has been criticized as inadequate by a five-member panel convened by the National Academy of Sciences, according to the bill's author, Rep. Gilchrest. Other Studds Amendment supporters discussed what they call the "environmental blackmail" practiced by the Latin countries that are members of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and other countries that are "threatening to ignore all former restrictions, with no limit to the amount of kill." Tied in with the blackmail theme was the assertion that the under-lying motive for the U.S.

promotion of the bill and the Panama Declaration is to kowtow to Latin and other countries in fear of NAFTA or World Trade Organization action. After this lively and wide-ranging debate, the Studds Substitute Amendment was defeated 260-161.

In the third hour of the discussion of H.R. 2923, the bill's proponents concurred in support of the goal of zero dolphin mortality as do the nations that have signed on to the La Jolla Agreement of 1992 and the Panama Declaration of 1995. All these measures have included strong support for more research on the stress factor, alternative gear and other possible mitigating measures. The main concern is to retain, improve and codify the multinational support for the considerable success already achieved citing the highly migratory nature of the target species and the many nations involved in the industry. Also noted was the fact few people realize, the official estimates that dolphin mortality in the western Pacific where there is much tuna

(continued on page 5)

SEA OTTERS OF THE PACIFIC RIM ~ THREATS AND CONSERVATION NEEDS

Guest speaker, Ellen Faurot-Danials, presented "Sea Otters of the Pacific Rim: Threats and Conservation Needs." Ellen is the Science

Director of Friends of the Sea Otter and former employee of the Department of Fish and Game.

Ellen's presentation began with an overview of the distribution and population status of sea otters, both past and present. Our species of sea otter occurs only in the north Pacific and nowhere else. Its original range extended from the waters of Japan, up and around the Aleutian Islands

of Alaska, down the Alaskan peninsula and west coasts of Canada, the United States, and Baja California, Mexico. Throughout its range (both past and present) the sea otter is actually represented by three sub-species: the group around Japan, the Alaskan group, and the California group. She pointed out that there is enough genetic variation to warrant the separation of the three groups, though taxonomists remind researchers and students that there are no real visual differences in the animals.

Ellen next concentrated her discussion on the range/population size of the groups based on the most recent estimates. The current total north Pacific population is

(continued on page 5)





Sea Otters of the Pacific Rim

(cont. from page 4)

estimated to be somewhere in the range of from 100 to 150 thousand animals.

Researchers put the California count at about 2,300 animals, 395 off Washington, 1,650 in British Columbia waters, 10,000 along the Alaskan Peninsula, and approximately six to 10 thousand in and around the Prince William Sound.

Various sets of regulations protect the animals depending upon the area(s) where the animals are to be found. The main point of Ellen's discussion on this point was that people need to be aware of this difference and not assume that a 'uniform blanket' protection strategy exists. As an example, the California sea otter is currently considered "threatened." Protective measures for this group of animals, based on its population size and distribution, are different from those of other areas (such as the state of Alaska). In Alaska, because of the large size of the population, there isn't as much of a concern, although the approach by officials is cautious. Native American Alaskans take approximately 200 to 300 animals per year. They do this, however, under the guidance of a fairly strict set of regulations and rules.

In the state of Washington, a major concern exists dealing with the movement of otters into an area where the local native tribes have established a sea urchin fishery. Naturally, the locals fear that the movement of otters into this area will have negative effects upon the population of urchins. As such, there is much debate taking place on how to deal with this problem should it materialize as predicted or feared by the locals. The Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service are not in agreement.

Ellen's final major area of coverage

addressed the California population. The California population has grown at about 5% per year. When compared to the growth rate of otter populations in other areas, California's growth rate is slower. In Washington the growth rate typically has ranged from 15 to 20% per year. There have been various reasons proposed to explain the slower California population growth rate. One reason is that the range within California waters has not increased that much with the past decade. Another reason points out that a slow growth rate is due to a higher pup mortality in California waters than in other areas. Ellen pointed out that the slow growth rate is not due to a decreased reproductive rate. She also briefly touched upon the occurrence of infectious diseases afflicting sea otters and that dead otters found on California's coast have had a higher occurrence of these diseases.

Various possible "recovery" plans for California's sea otters were summarized by Ellen to end her presentation. These include plans to handle an oil spill event of the magnitude of the infamous Exxon Valdez spill. Computer models are currently being developed to predict oil spill movement and its influence on plant and animal life along the entire California coastline.

(Photographs courtesy of the Friends of the Sea Otter)

Tuna/Dolphin Conflict

(cont. from page 4)

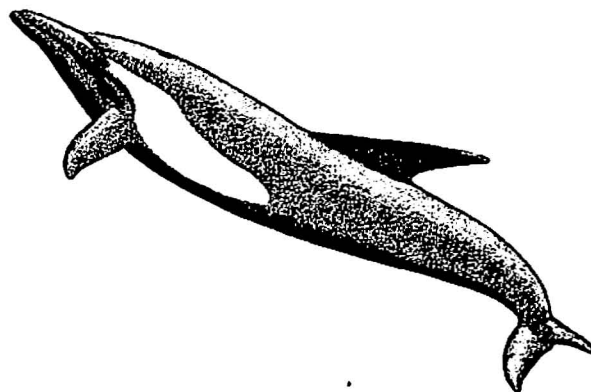
fishing, has risen to an annual rate of 10 - 40,000 animals. No observers are placed on any of those boats to monitor the dolphin deaths.

Other proponents cited the use of a multi-species, ecosystem management approach rather than the more commonly practiced single-species management schemes, which seem to be losing favor among marine scientists and others concerned with ocean ecology and biodiversity. In that connection, several members mentioned the huge bycatch of many non-target, sometimes-endangered species caught in conjunction with tuna when alternatives to purse-seining are used (e.g. raft or buoy fishing).

Thousands of billfish, sharks, immature or juvenile yellowfin and other tuna, and sea turtles are landed and discarded. Studies seem to indicate that there is minimal bycatch in connection with purse-seining.

After an equally lively and wide-ranging debate, H.R 2923 was passed as noted above. Incidentally, except when members had to be present for the two recorded votes, not more than 20 or 25 members were present during the debate.

(Barbara Britten is Marine Environment Consultant for the ACS Monterey Bay Chapter and provides our chapter with current reports on conservation and environmental public policy issues. Barbara was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years before moving to the Davis, CA area. She was recently appointed by President Clinton as the sole environmentalist representative on the 4-member U.S. delegation to the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission [IATTC])



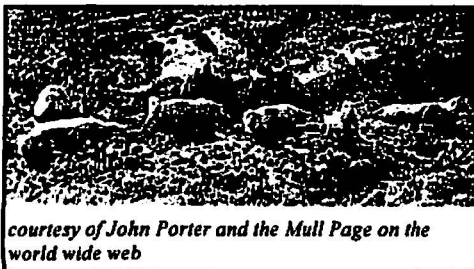
European Marine Mammals

...Maura Leos

Recently Rob and I traveled to Scotland and England. While there we wanted to see and photograph some marine mammals to share with all of you. Unfortunately, time and money constraints did not allow for this. We were able, however, to observe from a distance some Atlantic gray seals, some puffins, an oyster farm, and some salmon farms. Salmon farming is quite an industry in Scotland. We also got to see quite a few fishing boats. An interesting phenomenon in Scotland is that there are no slips in a marina for the boats, so when the tide is out the boats just lie over on their keels. Maybe they are keeled over drunk?

We did get to watch the fishing fleet leave for fishing while we were in Oban. They left around 3:00 a.m. while it was still dark. Some things never change no matter what part of the world one is in. If I paid no attention to my surroundings, I felt as if I were here in Monterey. Of course, here most of the fishermen are coming in to land fish at that hour.

The Isle of Mull and surrounding islands and waters are a plethora of marine animals. Many visit (even in the dead of winter) to go birding and whale watching. The Trishnish Isles and other little islands are home to otters and flocks of puffins. The Hebridean Whale Watching Trust offers a Whale Centre with guided tours, library, video footage of cetaceans, and acoustics.



courtesy of John Porter and the Mull Page on the world wide web



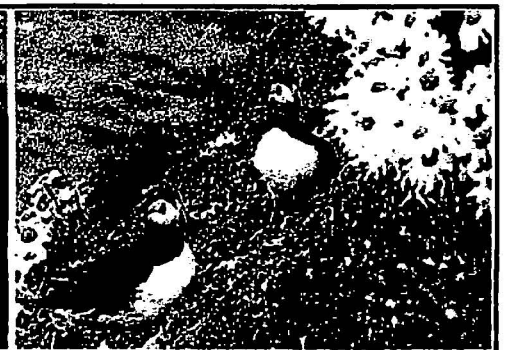
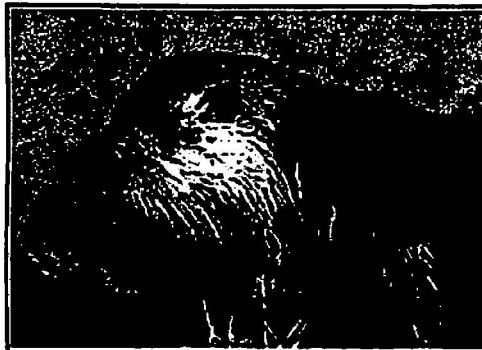
August 1996



Ferry dock - Craignure, Isle of Mull



Fish farm - Pennycross, Isle of Mull



Photos courtesy of John Porter of Dervaig, Isle of Mull, author of the Mull Home Page



Blue Whales Gather

According to an article that appeared in the Monterey County Herald on Monday, July 22, 1996, there appears to be a large gathering of blue whales off the southern California coast over the last few years which has attracted many scientists.

The blue whale is the world's largest animal and is currently on the endangered species list having been placed there in 1966. These whales have gathered in large numbers off the coast of Santa Barbara in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

Using six vessels, biologists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are tagging and tracing the whales. Researchers and a 300-foot floating laboratory vessel from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in La Jolla, California along with the 180-foot NOAA research vessel the David Starr Jordan are involved in this project.

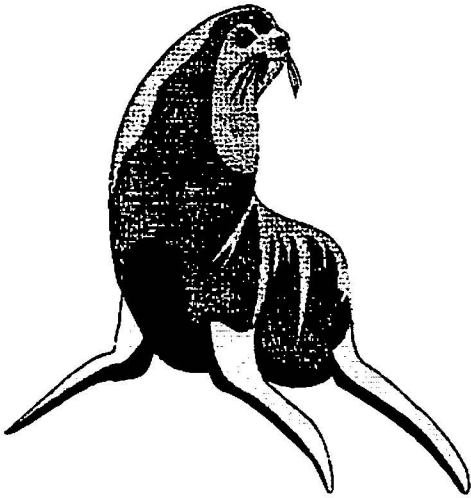
So far (as of July 22, 1996) three blue whales have been successfully tagged and followed.

An increase in the numbers of blue whales off the coast of California was first noticed in 1991, with a 1993 study indicating about 2,000 animals out there. Scientists believe a one-time world wide population of approximately 400,000 has been reduced to around 12,000.

Blue whales feed on krill, a small, bright red crustacean similar to shrimp. Scientists believe plentiful krill is the reason for so many animals in the area. But since this is not the only place where there is an abundance of krill, the scientists wonder if there are others factors that have drawn the whales to the sanctuary.

This study is scheduled to conclude by August 2.

Sea Lions Visit Monterey Bay



During June and July a large (very large) number of one and two year old sea lions from the Channel Islands decided to vacation in Monterey. At one point there were upwards of 1500 to 2500 animals hauling out on the Coast Guard jetty, the wharf, boats, the shore, the recreation trail, picnic tables, benches, and anywhere they could find empty space.

Many thanks need to go to the diligent volunteers who spent so many hours keeping the sea lion/human interaction to a minimum. The potential for some serious encounters was great and due to constant vigilance, no serious injuries occurred.

There is much speculation as to why these animals were here. Some say because the water and air temperatures down south were too warm. The sea lions

were not famished as is typical of this kind of migration in the past.

In July, the animals decided it was time to go home so they left. Finally. There are still a good number of sea lions hauling out here, but they are the usual guys who are always around.

Another potential problem is the step some boat owners may be taking to keep the sea lions off their vessels. They are constructing nail boards and attaching these to the boats to keep the sea lions from jumping on board. According to Roy Torres, Special Agent, National Marine Fisheries Service, so far this is not illegal as no animal have been injured by it. However, he is watching the situation closely and as soon as any injuries occur, the vessel owners will be held accountable.

Monterey Bay Chapter's Board Members for 1996

President	Richard Ternullo	1013 Hillside Ave	Pacific Grove, 93950	373-4281
Vice President/Publicity Chair	Dan Presser	6 Victoria Vale	Monterey, 93940	649-4747
Recording Secretary	Deborah Oglesby	314 Aachen Rd.	Seaside, 93955	394-1878
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Newsletter Mailing	Barbara Oliver	5 Walter Colton Dr.	Monterey, 93940	373-2177
Beachwatch Coordinator	Esta Lee Albright	200 Dunecrest #2	Monterey, 93940	375-1658
Special Events Coordinator	Debbie Ternullo	1013 Hillside Ave.	Pacific Grove, 93950	373-4281

Scientific Advisory Committee

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Tom Kieckhefer	9433 Holly Hill Dr.	Salinas, 93907	663-3813
Jerry Loomis	Rout 1, Box 62	Carmel, 93923	625-2120
Jud Vandevere	93 Via Ventura	Monterey, 93940	372-6001
Steven Webster	210 Asilomar Ave.	Pacific Grove, 93950	373-7676(h), 647-4864(w)
Tom Williams	2381 Fairfield Pl.	Carmel, 93923	375-5570

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Types of Memberships, Annual Dues

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(\$500) (\$250) (\$75) (\$35) (\$45) (\$45) (\$25) \$15/12 issues
☐ Gift ☐ Renewal ☐ New Subscription

Note:

Subscription does not entitle subscriber to membership benefits

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Return to : Membership Secretary, ACS Monterey Bay Chapter
514 Beaumont Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

For Subscriptions Make Checks Payable to ACS/Monterey Bay Chapter
Send to PO Box HE, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Chapter: #24 Monterey

Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational, and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Marine Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker, 373-2274.

Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



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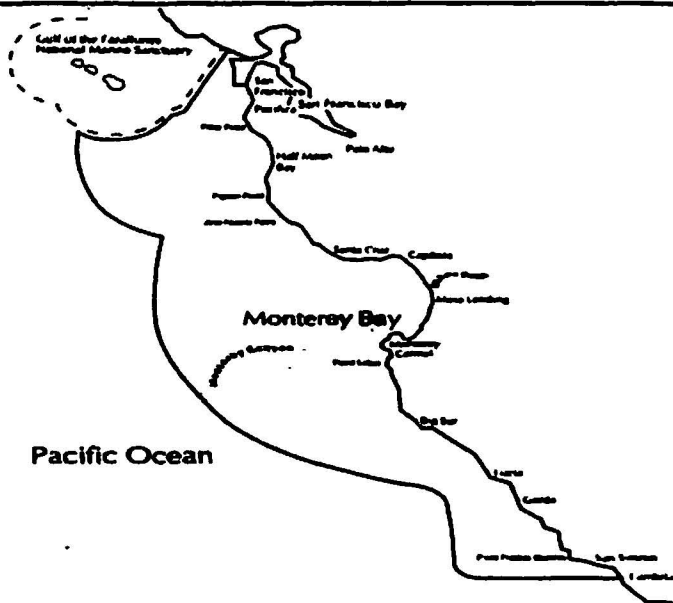
Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



Monterey Bay Chapter
September 1996

The ACS Monterey Bay Chapter Newsletter



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: Research in Progress, with a discussion of future needs

If you have ever wondered exactly what goes on at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), now is your chance to find out. Research Coordinator, Andrew De Vogelaere will be the guest speaker for the ACS Monterey Bay Chapter's monthly meeting for

practices. Experimental studies include understanding the role of critical habitats for marine mammals in Monterey Bay, restoration of bird colonies, quantifying fish lesions, assessing the effects of trawling for fish on benthic habitats, and the causes of marsh loss in Elkhorn Slough. The challenges for research in the future are extensive. A few of the critical projects are assessing the role of marine parks and harvest refugia in resource management, the impacts of overflights on marine birds and mammals, and understanding sand flow through the Sanctuary.

Andrew De Vogelaere received his Masters Degree from Moss Landing Marine Lab and his PhD from the University of California, Santa Cruz, both in the ecology of the intertidal zone. Please help welcome him and have an informative evening devoted to Sanctuary matters.

September. Join us **Thursday, September 26, 1996 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Lecture Hall, Monterey Boatworks, Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove for a discussion about the research currently happening with MBNMS.

Since research is a critical component of resource management, the MBNMS is involved with many programs and advisory groups to significantly enhance and advocate more frequent management plan updates, more research on specific problems and more research activity. The Sanctuary also provides an umbrella for those interest groups and programs without existing research advisory panels.

The MBNMS is interested in promoting research throughout the 5,000 square miles in its jurisdiction, and in adjacent watersheds. However, the Sanctuary research focus is on applied resource management issues.

Example monitoring programs are being developed for rocky shores communities, beach cast birds and mammals, subtidal kelp forests, water quality, and land use

In this Issue...

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HOPKINS MARINE STATION LIBRARY

Cetacean Evolution ~ Blue Whale Carcass Washes Ashore ~ Tuna/Dolphin

Cetacean Evolution

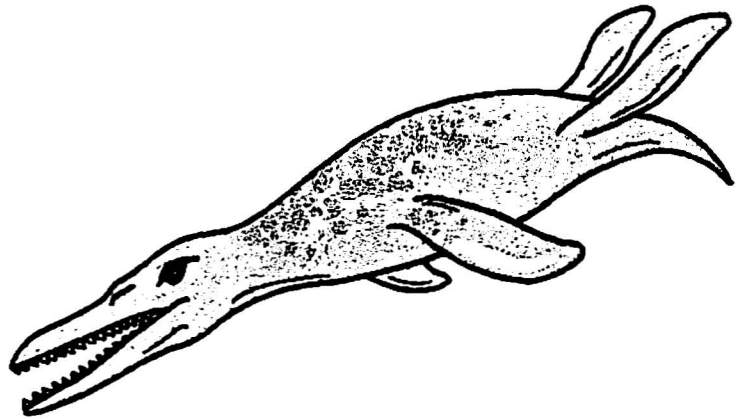
A symposium attended by 60 cetacean scientists met in Washington in early summer in conjunction with the North American Paleontological convention, to discuss the current findings and theories of whale evolution. It was chaired by Lawrence Barnes, who for many years was Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

The participants reached consensus on three major gaps in the perplexing and complex chart of whale evolution, 1) identifying the earliest progenitors of identified whale forebears, 2) the first toothed whale, and 3) the first baleen whale. General agreement was also reached on the evolutionary line that gave rise to the modern whale, namely the fossils of *Archeoceti*, dating back some 51.4 million years.

Findings on the early toothed whales were reported from Washington State fossils of a still-unnamed creature that lived about 35 million years ago. It is the first identified record of animals whose skull features could have developed the ability to echolocate, one of the features of modern toothed whales. New Zealand scientists presented evidence of possibly the earliest baleen whales from studies of fossils found in Antarctica, also dating back some 35 million years. (Adapted from the scientific page of the "National Weekly Edition" of *The Washington Post*, July 29-August 4, 1996)

Blue Whale Carcass

There have been many press accounts of the large number of blue whales that have been observed off California's coast this summer. In mid-August, a large blue whale carcass was spotted by a National Park Service volunteer on the shore of San Miguel Island, contrary to reports that it was reported by a dive boat charter crew. Subsequently, personnel from the Channel Islands Sanctuary and the National Marine Fisheries Service determined it to be a 73-foot male. Unfortunately it had been beached so long it was too



badly decomposed to be able to collect useful tissue samples for histological analysis. However, it was determined there seemed to be no obvious indication of misadventure resulting from a human interaction, such as a collision with a boat. Some samples of skin and blubber were taken for DNA analysis. There have been 11 such strandings of blue whales since 1983, this being the first since 1993.

Tuna/Dolphin

A fractious Congress returns to Washington after Labor Day for a very brief session before adjourning in early October to go home to campaign. Their plates are full with appropriations bills and other high priority legislation, so there is no certainty that this legislation will be on the agenda; Senate staff say it won't be during the first short week. If it should be brought to the floor during the remaining three weeks, California's Barbara Boxer may make good on her promise to conduct a filibuster. The relevant bills are: administration bill, Stevens-Breaux, S1420, and the opposition bill, Boxer-Biden, S 1460.

(Barbara Britten is Marine Environment Consultant for the ACS Monterey Bay Chapter and provides our chapter with current reports on conservation and environmental public policy issues. Barbara was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years before moving to the Davis, CA area. She was appointed by President Clinton in 1994 as the sole environmentalist on the four-member panel of Commissioners who head the U.S. delegation the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission [IATTC])

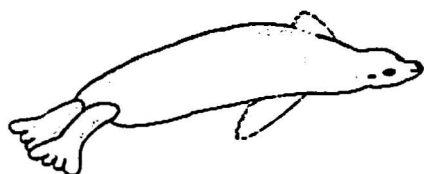
American Cetacean Society's Beachwatch Needs You!

If you've been looking for a way to become better acquainted with our local marine mammals and many fine terrestrial ones as well, this is your chance!

The Beachwatch mission is simple: to patiently stand watch over beached marine mammals, educating curious bystanders and preventing harassment, until the animals are rested and return to the sea, or are picked up by the SPCA to receive needed veterinary care, or even, rarely, until they die in peace.

Beachwatch is a 15 year-old, all-volunteer group mobilized into action whenever a live marine mammal is reported on Monterey County beaches.

The Monterey Bay chapter of the American Cetacean Society is looking for **TWO** volunteer co-coordinators to maintain our active and much needed Beachwatch program in Monterey County.



Specific Tasks by Co-coordinators:

Schedule and instruct volunteers watching beached animals during daylight hours, maintain contact with SPCA and local ACS chapter, and recruit and train volunteers.

Time Commitment:



Total time varies from 0 to a maximum of 12 hours per week, to be shared by co-coordinators. Activity is "as needed," with some months lacking beaching episodes and some months (particularly spring/summer) heavy with activity.

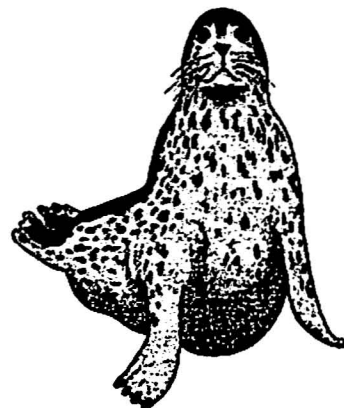
Both co-coordinators should live in Monterey County (preferably on or near the Monterey Peninsula). Both must have a car and phone, and be willing and able to use them. No prior background in marine mammals is necessary, although co-coordinators must be interested in learning and then teaching others about them. Each co-coordinator should be willing to take on the position for a minimum of one year. Co-coordinators will share a single vote at quarterly ACS chapter board meetings.

Although this is not a paid position, each co-coordinator will receive partial compensation to defray some costs.

Please send letter of interest, including phone number, to:

**Beachwatch
P.O. Box 183
Monterey, CA 93940.**

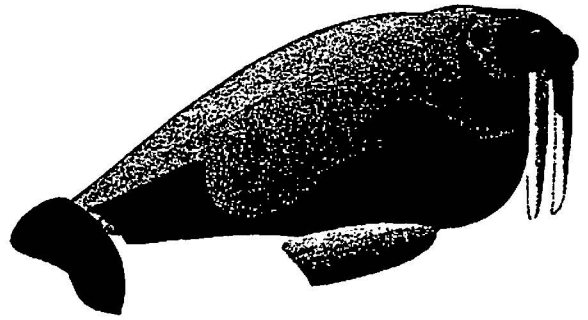
Deadline for application: October 15, 1996.



Marine Mammal Sightings

July 26 ~ August 28

...compiled by Richard Termullo



Now that Shearwater Journeys and Oceanic Society Expeditions have started summer/fall trips, sightings will increase. So far, species diversity resembles the oceanic (upwelling) phase, but that should be more apparent during the next reporting period.

Baleen whale sightings have been exceptional, but there seems to have been a movement away from the area in a northward direction during the last week of this reporting period.

Best sighting for toothed whales has to have been the sperm whale seen twice. Dolphin sightings have remained sparse. No common dolphin sightings so far, and the most commonly seen dolphins were Pacific white-sided dolphins.

Albacore tuna seem to be appearing in greater numbers than we have seen in the last ten years.

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
------	-------------------	----------	------

BLUE WHALE

There were 32 sightings of up to ten whales in groups of 1-2 individuals. They are found mostly along canyon edges from Yankee Point to Soquel Canyon.

FIN WHALE

8/7	3	7 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	MBW
-----	---	--------------------	-----

HUMPBACK WHALE

There were seventy-three sightings of this whale of up to 20-30 in groups of 1-3 along canyon edges and off Fort Ord.

GRAY WHALE

7/31	1	Monterey Harbor	DL
8/10	1	Near Santa Cruz Harbor	MB

MINKE WHALE

There were twelve sightings of this whale, mostly nearshore, and on the continental shelf.

SPERM WHALE

7/29	1	4 mi. W Pt. Joe	OSE
8/16	2	4 mi. W Pt. Joe	R/VDJ

BAIRD'S BEAKED WHALE

8/25	16-20	6 mi. W Pt. Joe	SHJ
------	-------	-----------------	-----

RISSO'S DOLPHIN

8/5	15-20	1 mi. N Pt. Pinos	OSE
8/8	30	8 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	DG
8/17	25	7.5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	SVS

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
------	-------------------	----------	------

BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

8/23	8	Marina St. Beach	JS
------	---	------------------	----

These dolphins have also been sighted off Del Monte Beach regularly from the restaurant on top of the hotel. (NG)

PACIFIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN

8/4	50-60	8 mi. SSW Santa Cruz	JW
8/9	250	3 mi. W Pt. Pinos	OSE

Along with 3 humpback whales

8/17	20	Near MBARI Buoy	BL
8/17	100	12 mi. W Pt. Pinos	SHJ
8/24	125	12 mi. SSW Santa Cruz	SHJ

DALL'S PORPOISE

There were 32 sightings of up to 70 individuals in groups of 3-10 along canyon edges.

HARBOR PORPOISE

8/8	4	3 mi. NNW Monterey Harbor	OSE
8/17	2-3	4 mi. W Soldier's Club	RT

NORTHERN FUR SEAL

7/28	1	16 mi. SSW Pt. Sur	BSOL
8/17	1	8.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	RT

NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL

7/28	1	10 mi. SW Santa Cruz	RT
7/28	1	4 mi. SW Cypress Pt.	RT
7/30	1	4 mi. W Pt. Pinos	OSE
8/2	1	5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	OSE
8/4	1	5.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	SHJ
8/6	1	3 mi. SW Cypress Pt.	OSE
8/18	1	8 mi. S Santa Cruz	SHJ

CALIFORNIA SEA LION

About 750 are hauling out on Monterey Breakwater and boats in the harbor.

HARBOR SEAL

Found along rocky shorelines from Monterey Harbor to Pt. Lobos and Elkhorn Slough.

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.	DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
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SOUTHERN (CALIFORNIA) SEA OTTER

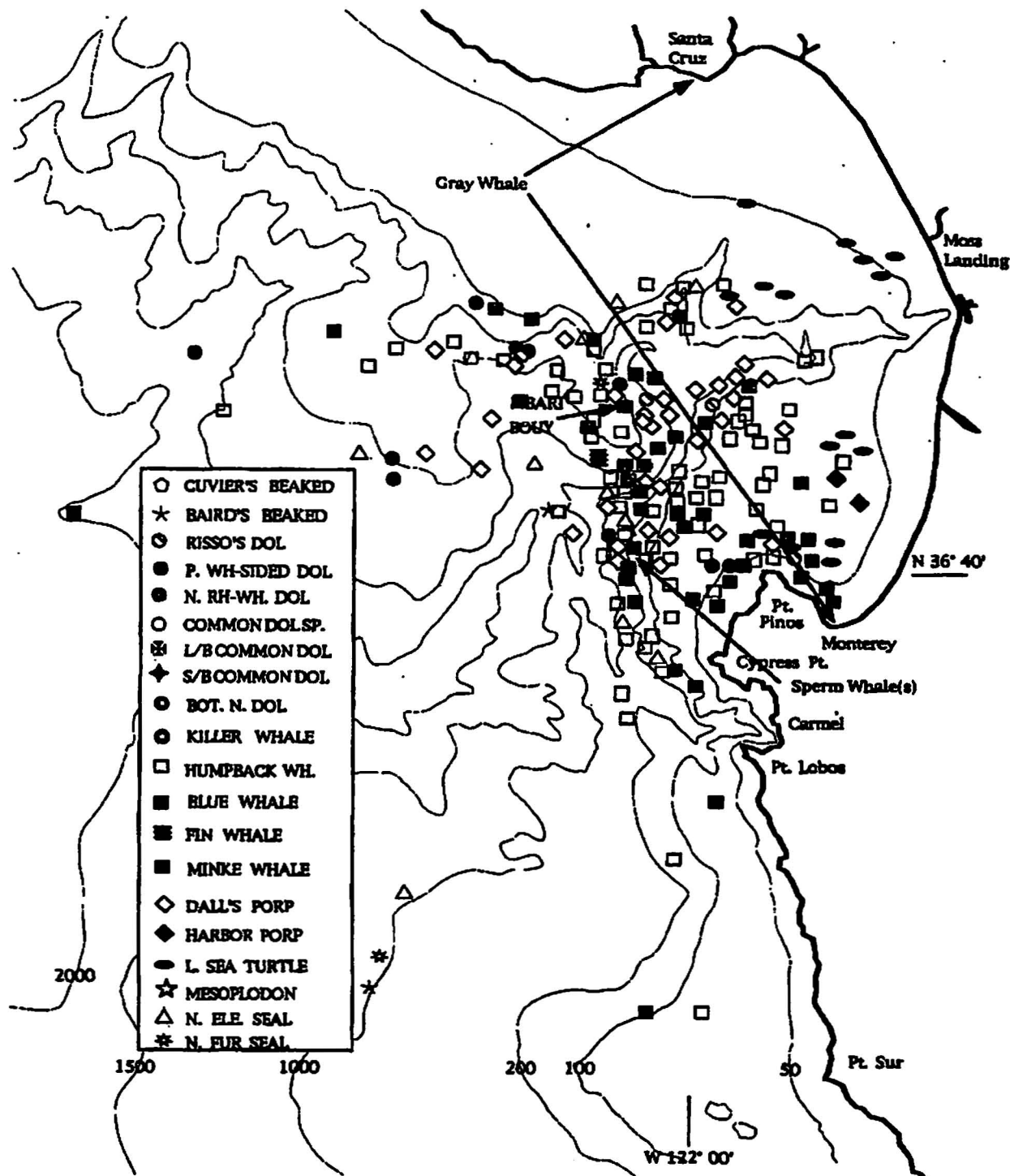
Found along rocky or sandy shorelines and in Elhorn Slough.

LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLE

Eleven sightings of up to 3-4 individuals, mostly nearshore along a line containing a high density of jellyfish.

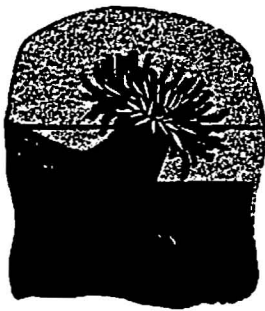
KEY TO OBSERVERS

MB=M. Baxter, SSOL=Big Sur Ornithological Laboratory, NG=N. Garcia, DG=D. Giblin, DL=D. Lemon, BL=B. Lucas, MBW=Monterey Bay Whalewatch, SHJ=Shearwater Journeys, RT=R. Ternullo, R/VDJ=R/V David Johnston, OSE=Oceanic Society Expeditions, JS=J. Stevens, SVS=S. Van Sommeran, JW=J. Williamson



"It's Too Darn Hot, We're Moving North" or "Further Investigations of Long-Term Faunal Changes in a California Rocky Intertidal."

Attendees of the Monterey Chapter of the American Cetacean Society's August meeting were treated to this presentation by doctoral candidate, Rafe Sagarin. Translated, this presentation summarized a study that Rafe and his colleagues did on the changes to the animals found in an intertidal study site at the Hopkins Marine Station, based upon an important study done some time ago. But, let's start at the beginning.



The beginning took place during the year 1931, and it was at that time that two important things happened. The first was that Hopkins Marine Life Refuge was created. The second was that a graduate student, a fellow by the name of Willis Hewatt, set up a study transect that covered a sizable section of the intertidal area within the boundaries of "Hopkins." Within the transect's own boundaries (95 square yards worth), Hewatt literally identified and counted all the animals. This three-year study, part of his doctoral work, was an attempt to identify what was there and how those animals were affected by temperature variations and changes, the tides, salinity changes, etc. Massive amount of work that it was, the study was all but forgotten for approximately 60 years. It was at this time (1993-1994) that Rafe and his colleagues, attempted to duplicate Hewatt's study. This was done to determine if and how, over time, the animal populations Hewatt identified and counted, had changed.

In order to do a comparison study, the methods used by Hewatt, had to be

duplicated. A key to duplicating the study was the discovery of a few of the brass bolts that Hewatt had driven into the rocks to define the boundaries of his study transect. Despite the passage of time, they were still there. With these brass bolts serving as guide posts, Rafe's team was able to set up the study transect exactly as Hewatt had done. A total of 57 quadrants were re-surveyed and a total of 125,590 individual animals were counted, representing 136 species. By a process of elimination, the 136 species were reduced to 63, and it was these that were studied. What the researchers discovered was that over the years many changes did indeed take place. A major change that has taken place was that animals normally found in greater abundance south of the Monterey Bay area and not found in great abundance in Hewatt's study, were found to have increased at the time of the comparison study. In other words, some southern species moved farther north (or at least their northern range had extended). This could possibly be explained by the fact that the average water temperature has risen slightly over the past 6 decades (albeit not much). This is one of six major reasons for faunal changes. Rafe explained that these faunal changes could be listed as such:

1. Anthropogenic effects (i.e. how humans have influenced the animal populations)



2. Changes in predators
3. Changes in the substratum
4. El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)
5. Climate warming
6. Indirect effects

It is a combination of these reasons that in all likelihood resulted in the remarkable change in the "animal complexion" of the area. The important tie-in to cetaceans is that there is a good degree of probability that changes affecting intertidal invertebrates also affect the larger animals, both on a short-term and a long-term basis. The results of this type of study can serve as an indicator for researchers who need to document what affects all plants and animals of the oceans, from the smallest, seemingly insignificant invertebrate, to the great cetaceans.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The ACS Monterey Bay Chapter is looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:

RECORDING SECRETARY

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

If you are interested PLEASE call Jo Guerrero at 633-2956, or Maura Leos at 375-0475

Tagged Sea Lion Response

...Esta Lee Albright

In June I sent in tag and brand numbers from two sea lions I saw with the mob at the breakwater. I sent them to an address I had from several years ago and got a reply from the Marine Mammal Lab with the correct address and instructions for submitting tag information – which led to an article in Soundings recently. Recently I received information about the two numbers I sent, so I would like to share the letter – both for its information and as an incentive to others.

Tony Orr, of Moss Landing Marine Lab, has told me that, so far, there is no follow-up information about the sea lions that were here this summer, so tag information that adds to his census data may give us insight on where they went and how they are doing.

Sharon Melin, Fishery Biologist, California Current Ecosystem Program, National Marine Mammal Laboratory in Seattle, writes:

"Thank you for the information on brand 3665 and 1482. This first animal is a female California sea lion that was branded as a pup in September 1995 at San Miguel, CA. At the time of marking, she weighed 18.0 kg and was 5-6 months old. The second animal was branded in 1991 as a pup. He was 20.5 kg at the time of marking.

San Miguel Island is the northern limit of the California sea lion breeding range and is the westernmost island in the Channel Islands chain off the coast of California. Each year, a population of about 70,000 California sea lions returns to the island to breed and pup. Pups are born in late May and June and are usually weaned in March or April of the following year. Each year we tag and brand 500 pups out of about 20,000 born and conduct long-term observation studies throughout the year and lives of tagged individuals [sic].

The tagging program for seals and sea lions on San Miguel Island was initiated

in 1975. We have had tag recoveries from as far south as Pta Colnette, Mexico, and as far north as Washington State. The tagging program provides information for long-term studies on migration, movements, survival, reproductive success, and annual cycles of individual animals.

Studies such as these help us to effectively monitor marine mammal populations as they continue to increase.

Tag and brand sightings are an extremely important part of our studies and they provide valuable information required to understand the biology and status of marine mammal populations. Thank you for taking the time to participate in our research effort. We would appreciate information on any marked animals you sight in Monterey at anytime of the year."

"There is nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as simply messing around in boats."

..The Wind in the Willows

[HTTP://WWW.REDSHIFT.COM/~ESTARR/ACS](http://www.redshift.com/~estarr/acs)

Monterey Bay Chapter's Board Members for 1996

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Jerry Loomis	Route 1, Box 62	Carmel, 93923	625-2120
Jud Vandevere	93 Via Ventura	Monterey, 93940	372-6001
Steven Webster	210 Asilomar Ave.	Pacific Grove, 93950	373-7676(h), 647-4864(w)
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AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Return to : Membership Secretary, ACS Monterey Bay Chapter
514 Beaumont Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

For Subscriptions Make Checks Payable to ACS/Monterey Bay Chapter
Send to PO Box HE, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Chapter: #24 Monterey

Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational, and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Marine Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker, 373-2274.

Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



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Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



Monterey Bay Chapter
October 1996

The ACS Monterey Bay Chapter Newsletter

The World's Whales: currents in conservation



The ACS Monterey Bay Chapter will be hosting guest speaker Stan Butler, Executive Director, Whales Alive (a project of Earth Island Institute) for the October meeting. The date and time is Thursday October 24, 1996,* at 7:30 p.m. The place is the Monterey Boatworks, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove.

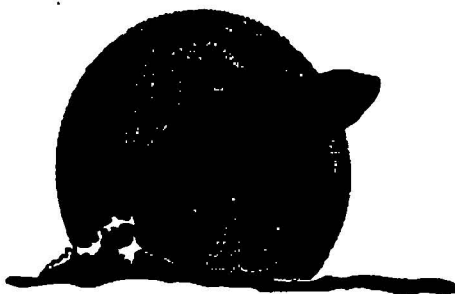
A century ago the massive slaughter of whaled was barely noticed. Now every sub-population is important. While some slowly increase, others show a disturbing decline. Does the future look brighter, or will the time come when the struggle becomes that for individual animals?

Our speaker, a whale conservation activist, will discuss some of the following topics. Issues inside and outside the International Whaling Commission (IWC), Yen diplomacy, Norwegian whaling, the workings of the IWC Scientific Committee, and the record of the Clinton Administration in this area. Other subjects to be addressed as time allows include potential for gray whale habitat loss in the Baja California lagoons, climate change, pollution threats and immune suppression, industrial scale fishing, aboriginal and small-type coastal whaling, economics and pirate whaling,

DNA markers and smuggled whale meat, small cetaceans, and dolphin safe tuna, and the upcoming fight in Congress to re-authorize the Endangered Species Act. This is an opportunity to update your understanding of the threats to cetaceans from many quarters.

Our speaker spends most of the year in Hawaii conducting educational whale watching cruises and supporting the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary against its detractors. He travels widely and in January convened the Fourth Annual Whales Alive Conference in Maui.

Please join us for an extremely informative evening. And please note, October's meeting is actually a week earlier than normal in observance of Halloween.



***PLEASE NOTE**

October's ACS meeting is ONE WEEK EARLY

Due to Halloween, October's meeting will be held on Thursday, October 24

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Please welcome new members
Mr. & Mrs Mitteldorf of Pebble
Beach

Don't forget:

ACS Monterey Bay homepage: <http://www.redshift.com/~estarr/acs>
Editor's e-mail: leos@mbay.net

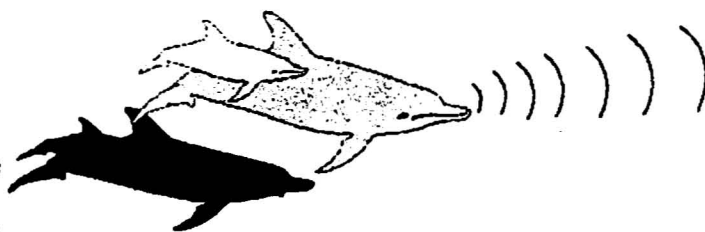
Navy Plans New Sonar System Deployment

...Barbara Britten

There's a new set of military acronyms to master, just as we've gotten used to ATOC: SURTASS (Surveillance Towed Array Sonar Systems) and LFA (Low Frequency Active Sonar). On July 18, the Navy published a Federal Register notice, announcing its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pertaining to this sophisticated military sonar system. The Navy intends to deploy this system "to enhance antisubmarine capabilities." It is proposed to be employed on all the new ships of one class and ultimately to be available for use in all the world's oceans and in deep and shallow waters. Unlike the ATOC project, this one has no civilian cohorts; it is entirely under aegis of the U.S. Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command.

The senior attorney in the Los Angeles office of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has played an important role in publicizing this previously unknown project. According to an NRDC letter to the Navy, this sonar system was already being tested in California waters nearly two years before the Federal Register notice was published. The NRDC letter also pointed out to the Secretary of the Navy the necessity to comply with permitting processes required under the various federal statutes protecting the marine environment and its inhabitants. These include the Marine mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Navy's notice only cited the latter law, NEPA. It gave virtually no technical details on the nature of the sound levels, then providing only three weeks' notice for the three scoping meetings held in various parts of the U.S. The NRDC letter noted that the California tests operated "...with a source level estimated to be in the range of 235 dB and a frequency range of 175 to 250 Hz."



In early September, the Executive Director of the Marine Mammal Commission wrote a five-page letter to the Navy contractor presumably responsible for this sonar system. He commented on the Federal Register notice and its deficiencies and provided further details of the legal and scientific requirements to comply with U.S. environmental laws, especially with regard to marine mammals, both globally and within U.S. territorial waters. "The Federal Register notice also does not indicate the sound output level of the LFA sonar, the depth or depths at which sounds will be propagated, or how often or for what lengths of time the system is expected to be used. Both the effects on marine mammals and the number of animals affected will depend, in part, on the intensity and other characteristics of the sounds propagated and when, where, how, how often, and for what lengths of time the LFA sonar system is used...[T]he environmental impact statements should, among other things, describe the characteristics (e.g., frequencies, bandwidth, harmonics, repetition rate) and provide assessments of the intensities of the sounds to which marine mammals might be exposed at various distances from the transmitter in different areas and under different operating conditions"

This letter minces no words in describing the potential impacts of this technology on marine biota. It will be interesting to track the Navy's response to the legal hurdles it faces in its newest invasion of the oceans with sound.

(continued on page 3)

Navy Plans Sonar Blasts More Powerful Than ATOC

...Deane Oberste-Lehn

The Navy's recently announced plans for a new sonar system poses a much more powerful threat to marine mammals and other marine creatures than the ATOC system.

The U.S. Navy has been developing a new ship-based sonar system to detect and track submarines. This Surveillance Towed Array Sonar System Low Frequency Active (SURTASS LFA) proposes to provide surveillance in both deep open oceans and shallow water coastal regions. The LFA system uses an array of acoustic transmitters suspended an average of 100 meters beneath the ship. The Navy plans to deploy four ships: two in the Pacific and two in the Atlantic. The LFA systems will be operated to detect and track submarines and for training in support of fleet anti-submarine warfare exercise.

The LFA would operate at lower frequencies than traditional sonar; namely 100 - 1,000 cycles per second, which would travel much longer distances. The transmitters would be turned on about 10 percent of the time. The Navy would not reveal how loud the acoustic pulses would be because the information is classified. However, sources for Joel Reynolds, attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council in Los Angeles, estimate the sound level would be at about 235 - 250 decibels (dB). That would be roughly 10,000 times louder than the controversial ATOC project being conducted off the California coast; and to be started off the coast of Kauai as soon as October/November 1996.

Apparently the Navy wants to keep a low profile on the LFA because the public scoping meeting (notice in Federal Register on July 18) were not revealed to the news media. Consequently the three scoping meetings held August 6 in

(continued on page 3)

Beached Dolphins Being screened for Morbillivirus

According to a story in The Monterey County Herald on Monday,

September 30, two dolphins found dead in southern California are being tested for the morbillivirus. This virus has been the cause of thousands of marine mammal deaths on the east coast and in the Mediterranean over past years.

One of the reasons for the concern with these two dolphins was the finding of morbillivirus in four common dolphins washed ashore in Los Angeles and Orange counties in 1995. At that time, because of those findings, biologists feared an outbreak then, but fortunately, it did not occur.

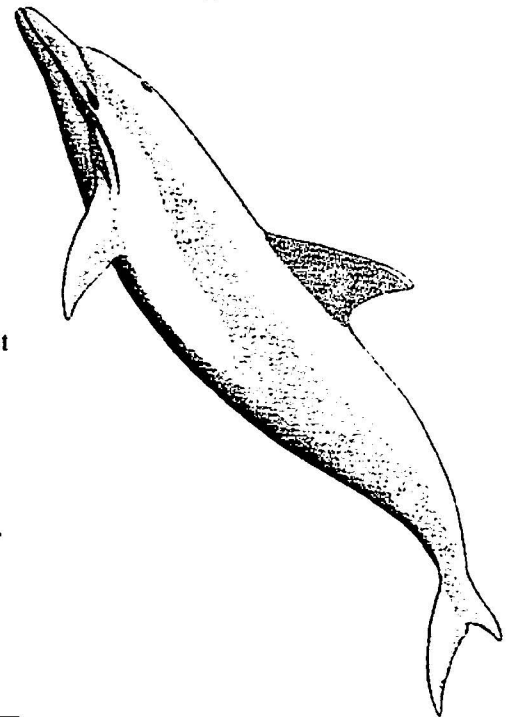
The paper quoted Joe Cordaro, a biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service in Long Beach as saying, "An epidemic probably would have occurred by now if it was going to happen, because it's been more than a year since we first detected the virus on the Pacific Coast."

Biologists have been screening all beached dolphins now for some time. In 1994 more than 65 common dolphins washed ashore in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, and while none of them tested positive for the virus, it was the cause of death of a dolphin found in Marina del Rey 13 months ago. Two other dolphins beached in Newport Beach and Malibu were also found to have it.

1987 was the year morbillivirus came to the attention of the world when hundreds of bottlenose dolphins showed up on the shoreline of New Jersey infected with it. It then spread to Florida, eventually killing over 1,000 dolphins by 1988. Then in 1990, another epidemic was indicated when striped dolphins washed ashore in Spain, spreading to the coasts of Italy, Greece, and Turkey finally killing another 1,000 animals.

Morbillivirus appears so deadly, NMFS officials have denied the release of a common dolphin rehabilitated at Sea

World in San Diego after testing positive. It is one of the most misunderstood illnesses affecting marine mammals.



Navy Plans Sonar Blasts More Powerful than ATOC

(continued from page 2)

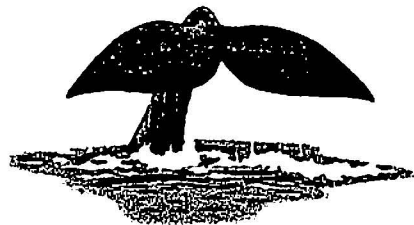
Norfolk (VA), August 8 in San Diego, and August 13 in Honolulu had low attendance. The deadline for written comments from the meetings was September 4.

The Navy will be preparing Environmental Impact Statements for the SURTASS LFA. A draft report is expected in the summer of 1997. As stated in the Federal Register: "The analyses to be conducted will address the potential impact of low frequency sound on the marine environment, including potential auditory, behavioral, and physiological impacts on marine mammals and other marine creatures. Alternatives to be studied, in addition to the no action alternative, include employment of the system with various combinations of mitigation measures such as detection and avoidance of sensitive species or areas, and modification of system use to eliminate or minimized the potential for

environmental effects."

To request more information on the LFA system, to send input on your concerns that should be addressed in the EIS, and to be placed on the mailing list for the EIS and other relevant information on the LFA, contact:

Office of the Chief of Naval
Operations, Code N874
c/o Clayton H. Spikes
Marine Acoustics, Inc.,
2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 901
Arlington, Virginia 22202
Phone: (703) 418-1866



Navy Sonar System

(continued from page 2)

Postscript: Senator Barbara Boxer used a parliamentary maneuver to prevent the Senate from acting on the House-passed tuna/dolphin bill on September 28 during a rare Senate session on a Saturday. As of this writing, October 1, no further Senate action has been taken. Meanwhile the IATTC will meet in La Jolla later in October. It will be complicated and difficult.

(Barbara Britten is Marine Environment Consultant for the ACS Monterey Bay Chapter and provides our chapter with current reports on conservation and environmental public policy issues. Barbara was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years before moving to the Davis, CA area. She was appointed by President Clinton in 1994 as the sole environmentalist on the four-member panel of Commissioners who head the U.S.

MARINE MAMMAL SIGHTINGS

August 25 ~ September 25

...compiled by Richard Ternullo

The Oceanic Period seems to be very apparent. A strong front in a position 15-30 mi. southwest of Pt. Pinos has had albacore congregating in the southern portion of the bay, and humpback and blue whales in the colder, or northerly portion.

Large schools of Pacific white-sided dolphins have been present, with sightings of rare odontocetes typical of this season. Baleen whales have been seen frequently, but unpredictably from one day to the next.

Declining, but more stable sea surface temperatures should signal the next oceanic season and the departure of many species of seabirds and baleen whales for the winter. There should be ample opportunity to observe movements from Pt. Lobos to Hurricane Pt. as a shoreside platform.

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
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BLUE WHALE

8/26	1	2 mi. W Pt. Lobos	OSE
8/26	2	4 mi. W Yankee Pt.	OSE
8/26	2	4 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	LO
9/24	2	20.1 mi. SSW Pt. Pinos	OSE
9/24	1	23.3 mi SSW Pt. Pinos	OSE
9/25	1+1	21.2 mi. SSW Pt. Pinos	OSE

FIN WHALE

9/15	3	35 mi. SSW Pt. Pinos	BSOL
9/25	1	21.2 mi. SSW Pt. Pinos	OSE

HUMPBACK WHALE

There were 42 sightings of this whale in groups of up to four, anywhere from .5mi. N of Pt. Pinos to 35 mi. offshore.

GRAY WHALE

9/5	1	Pt. Pinos	MR
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MINKE WHALE

8/26	1	3 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	OSE
9/10	1	3 mo. NW Pt. Pinos	RT
9/19	1	1.5 mi. SE Cypress Pt.	DR

KILLER WHALE

8/28	7	3.5 mi. W Pt. Pinos	OSE
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Killed and ate at least to pinnipeds, much sexual activity, and recorded vocalizations

9/5	9	8 mi. W Moss Landing	RVPL
9/24	3	4.5 mi. W Pt. Lobos HN	

Killed and ate an unidentified prey item.

BAIRD'S BEAKED WHALE

8/28	30	40 mi. W Pt. Pinos	HN
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CUVIER'S BEAKED WHALE

9/15	1	35 mi. SSW Pt. Pinos	BSOL
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DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
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BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

These dolphins seem to be fairly predictable in their movements along the perimeter of the northern bay. Jennifer Green lives at La Selva Beach and indicates that at between 6-7 a.m. and 7-8 p.m. the probability of seeing these dolphins in the surf is quite high. This time table will probably shift with the season, as daylight hours shorten, but it seems the best bet to view dolphins from shore. Good luck, and please let me or other chapter members know if you did see the dolphins!

RISSE'S DOLPHIN

9/21	20	9 mi. W Pt. Pinos	SHJ
9/25	200	8 mi. W Pt. Lobos	OSE

PACIFIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN

8/26	10	3 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	OSE
8/29	20	4 mi. WN Pt. Pinos	NL
8/31	10-12	3 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
9/1	50	15 mi. W Pt. Pinos	SHJ
9/8	5	13 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	SHJ

LONG-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN

9/17	1500	.5 mi. S Cypress Pt..	RG
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SHORT-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN

9/25	10	8.5 mi. W Pt. Lobos	OSE
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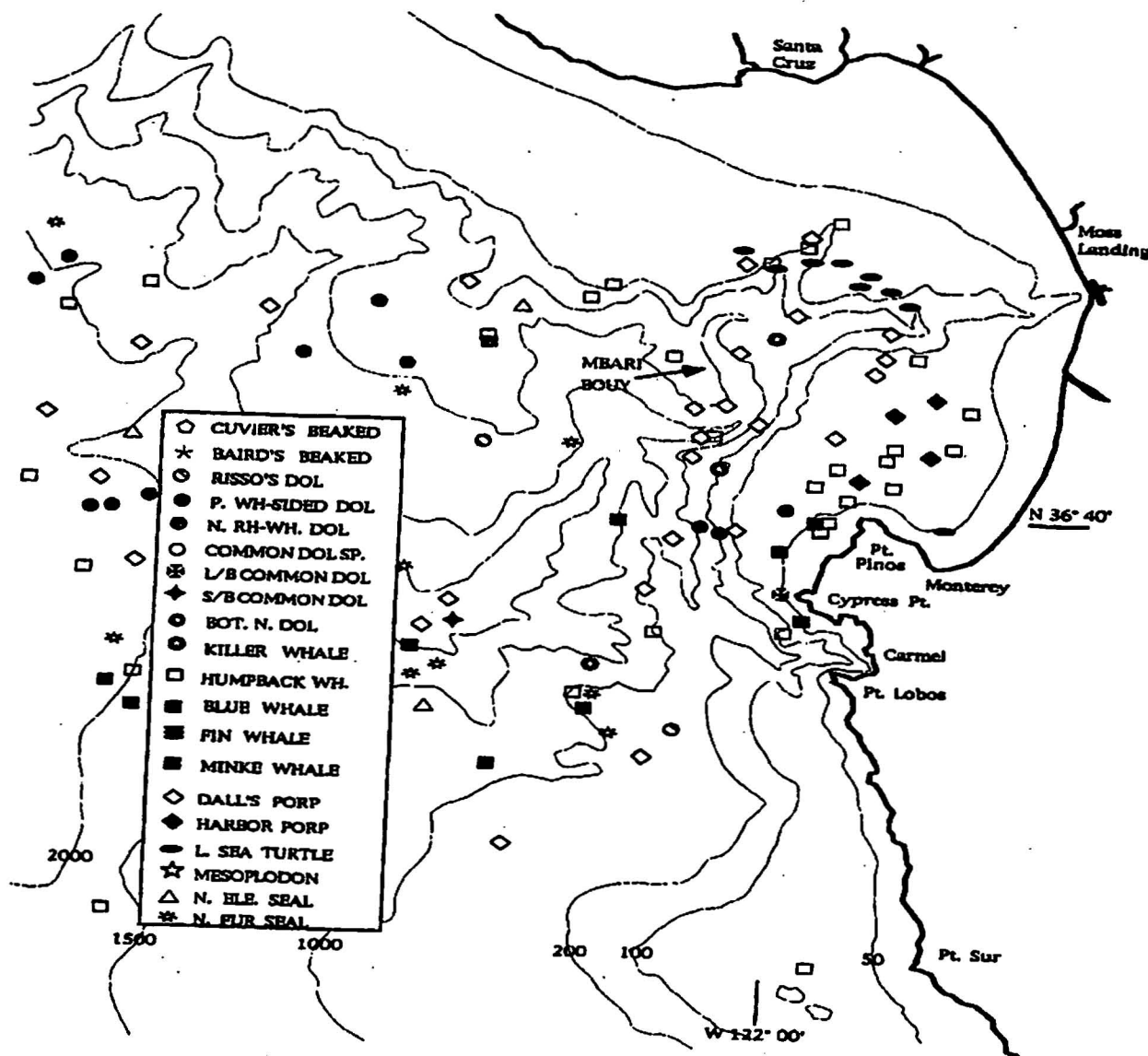
DALL'S PORPOISE

There were 24 sightings of up to 20 individuals from 10 miles offshore to 2 miles west of Moss Landing Harbor, along canyon edges.

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.	DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
NORTHERN RIGHT WHALE DOLPHIN				NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL			
8/26	12	17 mi. WNW Pt. Pinos	SHJ	9/15	1	10 mi. SW Santa Cruz	SHJ
		Associated with 50 Pacific white-sided dolphins.		9/23	1	8 mi. SSW Santa Cruz	MBW
9/1	3000	24 mi. W Pt. Pinos	SHJ	9/24	1	18 mi. SSW Pt. Pinos	OSE
		With 1500 Pacific white-sided dolphins		NORTHERN FUR SEAL			
9/15	30	18 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	SHJ	There were 11 sightings of single individuals, mostly 10 miles or more offshore.			
HARBOR PORPOISE				LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLE			
9/5	2	3 mi. W Marina St. Beach	MBW	8/31	1+1?	6.5 mi. S Santa Cruz	SHJ
9/7	3	2 mi. W Salinas River	SHJ	8/31	1	6.75 mi S Santa Cruz	NL
9/10	2	2 mi. W Soldier's Club	MBW	8/31	1	2 mi. NW Monterey Harbor	RG
9/22	4	1 mi. N Hopkin's Marine St.	SHJ				

KEY TO OBSERVERS

BSWOL=Big Sur Ornithological Lab, RG=R. Garcia, NL=N. Lemon, MBW=Monterey Bay Whalewatch, LO=L. Oliver, OSE=Oceanic Society Expeditions, HN=H. Neece, MR=M. Radakovitch, DR=D.Reins, RVPL=R/V Pt. Lobos, SHJ=Shearwater Journeys, RT=R. Ternullo



Research at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Dr. Andrew DeVogelaere, Research Coordinator for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), gave a presentation on some of the activities that the MBNMS currently is pursuing. He covered objectives of the research program, including:

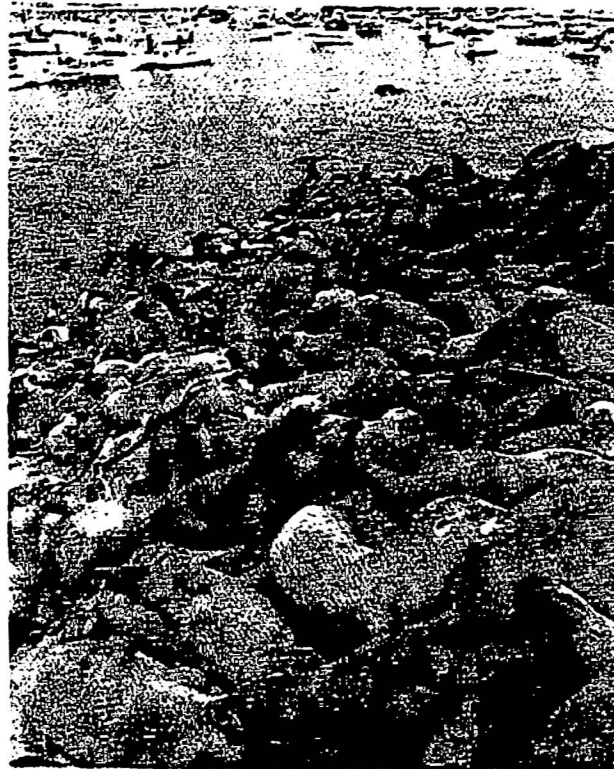
1. Develop and identify on-site research programs that provide scientific information about the Sanctuary.
Ongoing projects include site characterization and environmental monitoring.
2. Identify funding to support this research.
3. Research and provide scientific expertise to the MBNMS program.
4. Develop and maintain databases of information that describe the Sanctuary environment and its resources.
5. Help coordinate work of the local Research Community.

Dr. DeVogelaere next touched upon the Sanctuary's Research Activities Panel (RAP). The RAP is composed of representatives from 21 research institutions and organizations. RAP has established responsibilities including: (the following were taken from the MBNMS Internet page)

1. Set research priorities that are primarily related to management of the MBNMS;
2. Promote, encourage, and review research projects in the Sanctuary;
3. Provide scientific advice and objective information to the Sanctuary Advisory Council and Sanctuary management;
4. Review and advise on research permits in the Sanctuary;
5. Coordinate the annual MBNMS Research Symposium; and
6. Assist Sanctuary management with the organization and dissemination

(continued page 7)

Where Have All the Sea Lions Gone?



Hope they don't come back, at least not in the quantity of this summer. Beachwatch was instrumental in helping with the tourist/sea lion encounters. Members also spent endless hours informing the public as well as keeping detailed data.

A weekly column in the Monterey County Herald, "Serra's Children" ran a very nice story about two of the tireless workers, Anne and Bruce Bloxom. It seems it did not take very long after the "invasion" for Anne's phone to start ringing off the hook. As stated in the article, most of the calls were offers of help. Some, however, were of a more interesting nature. "One man who called wanted to help me blow up the sea lions," Bloxom says. Another suggested smearing the pier with Crisco, so the sea lions would slide off. A third man wanted to set off explosive charges in the surrounding area, timing them 'symphonically' to scare the animals away. And a woman who hoped to 'commune with the sea lions' eventually came down to the pier and tried to commune with a bull sea lion, which reared up aggressively, all 1,500 pounds of

it, as she approached. She decided the sea lions had told us all they had to tell us, Bloxom says." (Editor's note: one person was overheard saying, "What we need is for a big pod of orcas to come into the bay. But then, all one would see would be hundreds of sea lions hot footing it up Franklin St.")

Anne ended up recruiting, training, and scheduling over 100 volunteers. WOW! Everyone worked under the supervision of the SPCA, who, when it was finally all over, had a great party for everyone out at the SPCA on Highway 68.

Anne, who had been a researcher at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and Bruce, who had been a professor in the psychology department there, moved to the Monterey Peninsula in 1985 to enjoy life. They have been extremely busy since that time and most certainly their goal of enjoying life has been reached and then some. They are both active in local organizations. Anne has worked with the Carmel Views Community Association, ACS, and the Cypress Fire Protection District. Bruce has worked with the Department of Defense as a personnel research psychologist. He is on the board of the Educational Testing Service, as well as doing research, scientific editorial work and consulting. He also sings with the Cypressaires, a local barbershop quartet group, and plays the banjo and piano. Together, they are active in Beachwatch, the Big Sur Land Trust, and volunteer with the Friends of Pacific Repertory Theatre.

They have a wonderful outlook on life, and it was great to have them working so hard to not only protect the sea lions, but the visitors as well so the whole experience could be enjoyed by all.

MBNMS Research

(continued from page 6)

of information on research activities within the Sanctuary, including revision of the research database and directory of regional scientists.

The MBNMS has an excellent Internet page that provides extensive coverage of all of its activities. The world wide web address for the Sanctuary is:

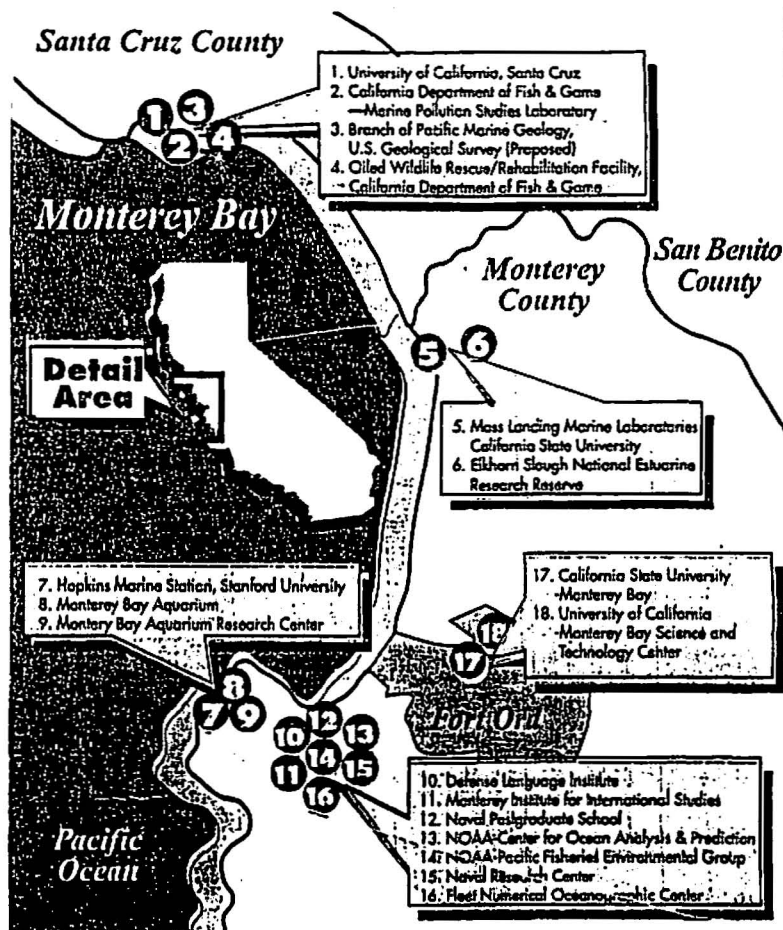
<http://bonita.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov>

Dr. DeVogelaere may be contacted at the following:

MBNMS
299 Foam Street, Suite D
Monterey, CA 93940

Phone: (408) 647-4257
Fax: (408) 647-4250
email:

adevogelaere@lobos.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov



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Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational, and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Marine Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker, 373-2274.

Soundings

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Soundings

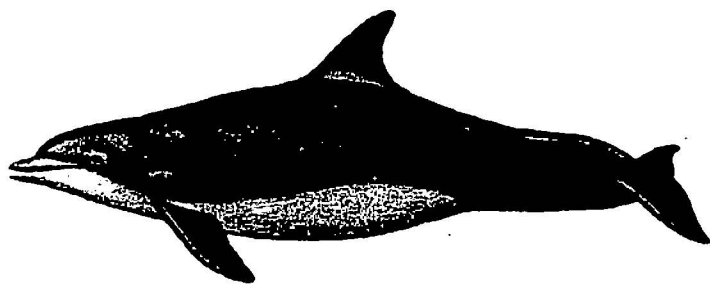
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



Monterey Bay Chapter
November/December 1996

The ACS Monterey Bay Chapter Newsletter

Bottlenosed Dolphins ~ a study in Monterey Bay



The last meeting of 1996 for the ACS Monterey Bay Chapter will be a discussion on the natural history, distribution and abundance, behavior, and ecology of the coastal bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) in Monterey Bay presented by Daniela M. Feinholz of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. Because Thanksgiving falls on the last Thursday of November, this meeting will be held on **Thursday, December 5, 1996, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Lecture Hall, Monterey Boatworks, Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove.

Some bottlenose dolphins have become permanent residents of the surf zone and nearshore shallows of Monterey Bay since the water-warming

event of the 1982/83 El Nino. They are most frequently observed from Marina State Beach north to Capitola, with very few sightings from southern Monterey Bay or Carmel Bay this year.

Our speaker first studied this animal in the Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas off the Italian and Croatian coasts. She has studied the Monterey population now for five years and will compare these two widely separated populations. Over 100 individuals have been photo identified here with over 60% of them previously identified in southern California. Group

size here is usually 6-10 animals but occasionally as many as 50 have been seen together. Known individuals photographed in Monterey Bay have been resighted as far south as Ensenada, Mexico, a travel record (1500 km) for this species.

In addition to their distribution (1500 km) and movements in the greater Monterey Bay region, she will discuss the social behavior of known individuals, including a female whose new calf died and was then carried by her for several days. *Tursiops* are known to join surfers at favorite areas. Feeding behavior will also be described.

Daniela has recently defended her thesis at the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and ACS/Monterey Bay has supported her research. She is currently President of the Pacific Cetacean Group and has founded the Coastal Dolphin Project.

Please join us to learn all you wanted to know about our local surf riding dolphin species.

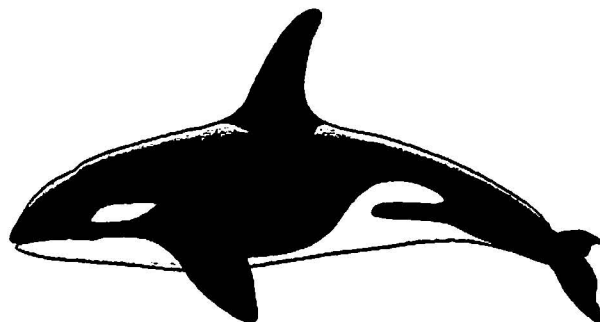
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Killer Whale Model Used in Seattle

According to an article that appeared on the CNN October 27, 1996 Web Page, a fiberglass killer whale has been designed in an effort to scare away the sea lions who have been causing havoc in the steelhead population trying to get through the locks to Lake Washington. This whale still needs federal approval before

being used, but it is just one more in a long line of efforts, which included bad tasting fish, noise makers, and even the threat of shooting, to keep the sea lions in check. The whale seems to have been dubbed "Fake Willy" and by all appearances looks pretty real. Good luck Seattle.



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IATTC Survives; at Least Temporarily

...By Barbara Britten

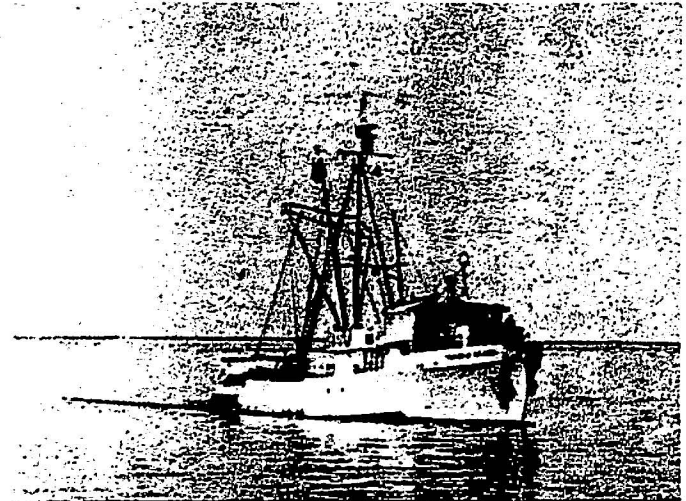
The Senate adjourned until January without acting on the competing tuna/dolphin bills. Rumors about where the responsibility lies remain rumors. With that in mind, it is no surprise that there was considerable anxiety about the potential scenarios at the 31st IATTC meeting recently convened in La Jolla. This anxiety was not mitigated when, early on the first day, the Mexican Commissioner presented a strong statement expressing indignation "...at the result of the U.S. process and the lost opportunity, at a most opportune moment, to demonstrate its genuine commitment to the principles of international cooperation, as it has so many times expressed in this forum."

Instead of withdrawing outright then, as rumor had gone, he stated it will "...immediately suspend its active participation in the La Jolla Agreement..." but will temporarily continue permitting "...IATTC observers on Mexican-flagged vessels to maintain transparency." However, Commissioner Comacho made it clear he expects the Administration to live up to the commitment made by the President in a letter written right after Congress adjourned, to Mexican President Zedillo, to work with Congress "...to introduce the implementing legislation in the first 30

days of the new Congress [supporting the Panama Declaration] and to pass such legislation as soon as possible thereafter." After this first day's morning coffee break, Mexico was absent and the entire 13-member delegation had been seen leaving the hotel in a fleet of cars. It never reappeared.

Subsequently, all the remaining Latin American members present jointly delivered a signed statement, endorsing continued active support of the La Jolla Agreement and the objectives of the 1995 Panama Declaration. Although they expressed their understanding of Mexico's position, they state their concern that, "...this might affect the continuity of the International Dolphin Conservation Program." These governments were: Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, Vanuatu, and Venezuela.

(Rather than try to give capsule description of the many hours spent listening to informative scientific and technical reports, the rest of this expanded column will describe, briefly, the four



Tuna seiner entering Los Angeles Harbor after being on the Pacific tuna grounds. (Photograph by R.A. Iselin)

Non-Governmental Organization's (NGO's) response to the present impasse)

The first to speak was the representative for Greenpeace, a supporter of the Administration's bill. He said, "...[No] nation can afford to retreat from its responsibility nationally or internationally to protect and conserve marine life and fragile ecosystems." He made several concrete suggestions by urging more stringent compliance with the conservation provisions of the La Jolla Agreement and stricter enforcement of the punishments for the many infractions published in the

(continued on Page 7)

ACS 1996 Conference

The bi-annual ACS Conference was held in San Pedro November 8-11. It was both informative and entertaining with a high quality of speakers, workshops, and poster presentations. This year's conference focused on "Bridging Science, Policy, and People." While the topics were of serious import, the presentations, for the most part, were light and easily understandable by the layman.

The conference was broken into four separate general topics, the future of whaling, contemporary issues and crises, sound and stresses in the sea, and whale

and human interactions. Each section had three speakers. The workshops were divided into two sessions each day of research, conservation, curriculum, and technology, with one session for biology.

The first topic of the future of whaling included Dr. Robert Brownell, Chief of the Marine Mammal Division at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, CA and Chair of the Committee of Scientific Advisors to the Marine Mammal Commission. He spoke on the recent International Whaling Commission (IWC)

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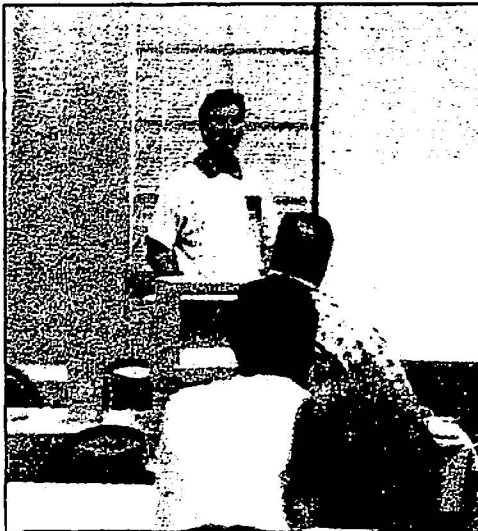
ACS president, Pete Major welcomes attendees to the ACS Conference.

1996 ACS Conference

(continued from Page 2)

conference in Aberdeen, Scotland, and the future of the IWC in general. Then Dr. Phil Clapham, resident research associate at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC, as well as a National Research Council fellow at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in California, asked the question of whether or not the whaling industry can be trusted. In a word, No. He then went on to discuss the history of whaling and the exploitation of southern ocean whale stocks in this century. If whaling ever resumes, it must be accompanied by watertight inspection procedures, both at sea and at every stage on the path to the markets. And finally, in the program, the next speaker was to be TBA, but in reality was John Heyning, curator of Research and Collection Division of Mammals at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. He spoke on species, populations, and genetic diversity, just what are we trying to say and manage.

Next, the three talks were about politics, the tuna-dolphin issue, and the impacts of cetacean-human conflicts. Karen Steuer, legislative staff for Congressman George Miller of California, the senior Democrat on the Resources Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. She spoke about the current trend in Washington regarding the environment and how scary the future looks for interest groups trying



ACS Board Member, Mark Schilling presents the Internet in a Conference workshop

to maintain the environmental controls. She also spoke about influences from foreign countries to weaken the strong stand the U.S. has had in the past. It all comes down, in the end, to the almighty dollar in that many environmental groups working towards the same goal are actually fighting each other over the ever dwindling funding, as well as putting some Washington-based groups against grassroots organizations, threatening future effectiveness. Dr. Michael Scott, Senior Scientist with the Dolphin Program of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission then gave an update on the status of the tuna-dolphin issue. Dave Wiley then spoke dealing with conflicts between cetaceans and humans. These conflicts pose varying degrees of threat to cetaceans. Coastal cetaceans appear to be at greatest risk, as the amount and variety of interactions with human activity is highest in those areas. He cited activities of the U.S. Navy conducting testing in the southeast U.S. coastal waters where the whales congregate. Even though the Navy contends there is no or little threat, there appears to indeed be impact.

On Sunday, the talks were geared a little more to the technical when we heard discourse on acoustics and then human interaction. Dr. Chris Clark, a Senior Scholar in the Section of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University and Director of the Bioacoustics Research

(continued on Page 6)

"Dolphin Death Act" Defeated

(Summarized from Earth Island Institute announcement of October 3, 1996 by Deane Oberste-Lehn)

The "Dolphin Death Act," S. 1420 and H.R. 2823, was killed in the U.S. Senate. These bills would have dropped the current U.S. ban on import and sale of tuna caught by methods known to slaughter thousands of dolphins annually. S. 1420/H.R. 2823 would have further misled consumers by changing the U.S. definition of "dolphin safe" tuna to allow chase, harassment, encirclement, and capture of dolphins with the deadly nets as long as an observer did not see any dolphin die outright. Besides those dead dolphins not detected, others would die after being released from the nets due to injuries and physiological shock incurred during chase and entrapment.

Senators Barbara Boxer and Joseph Biden and Representatives Gerry Studds and George Miller offered compromise legislation, S. 1460 and H.R. 2856, which would have retained the current strong definition of "dolphin safe" tuna, while encouraging foreign fishermen by allowing them to sell their dolphin safe tuna on the U.S. market. Congress members Gerry Studds and Sam Farr offered amendments to the "Dolphin Death Act," rejected by the proponents, that would have required live release of sea turtles from nets and reduction in non-target fish bycatch in the nets.

The demise of the "Dolphin Death Act" was attributed to strong opposition by the public, a coalition of more than 85 environmental, trade, labor, and animal welfare organizations, scientists, and hard fighting members of Congress. Congress received tens of thousands of letters and phone calls from concerned constituents. Senator Boxer and Representative Miller were especially tenacious, and were supported by many other members of the Congress.

"The Mexican government and Clinton Administration badly miscalculated in thinking they could redefine 'dolphin-safe'

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ACS Monterey Bay Chapter's Deane Oberste-Lehn (left) enjoys the posters presented.

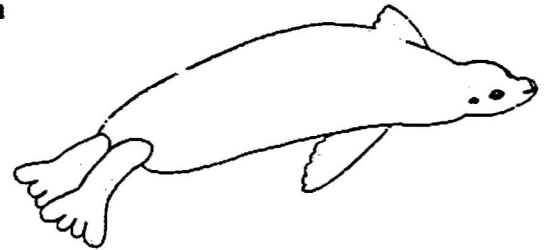
Marine Mammal Sightings ~ September 27 through October 24

There continues to be a considerable amount of activity around the bay as the oceanic phase starts to draw to a close. Sightings still reflect the diversity associated with this period and sighting rates of both large mystecetes and small odontocetes are relatively strong.

The sightings of large whales will decline by the end of the month as blue and humpback whales begin migrating south ahead of the gray whales, which will become the most frequently sighted whale by the end of November.

This month has also seen the return of large schools of both forms of the common dolphin after an absence of several months. Dolphin sightings usually are good during the winter months and this year may be exceptional.

All this activity may be seen from shore at locations from Point Lobos to Hurricane Point.



DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
BLUE WHALE			
9/27	2	22 mi. SSW Pt. Pinos	NL
9/27	2	30 mi. SSW Pt. Sur	NL

HUMPBACK WHALE			
There were 28 sightings of 1-6 individuals from 20 + miles SSE of Pt. Pinos north to Soquel Canyon and south to Pt. Sur. They have been seen in association with a number of other dolphins and whales.			

MINKE WHALE			
9/26	1	1.5 mi. W Asilomar St. Beach	OSE
9/27	2	1 mi. S Pt. Pinos	BL
10/4	1	1 mi. SE Cypress Pt.	JW

KILLER WHALE			
9/27	?	15 mi. W Pt. Sur	MG
Seen chasing a blue whale			

BAIRD'S BEAKED WHALE			
9/30	2	4 mi. SW Cypress Pt.	OSE
10/2	3	12 mi. SSW Santa Cruz	OSE
10/8	2	4 mi. SW Cypress Pt.	MBW
10/8	1	14 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	MBW

CURVIER'S BEAKED WHALE			
10/9	1	23 mi. SSW Cypress Pt.	NL

RISSE'S DOLPHIN			
9/27	10	30 mi. SSW Pt. Pinos	TJ
9/30	12-15	Carmel Bay	DR
10/4	12	1 mi. N Lover's Pt.	OSE
10/6	70	4.5 mi. W Pt. Sur	JW



DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
PACIFIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN			

There were 29 sightings of up to 400 individuals associated with humpback whales, northern right whale dolphins, California sea lions, and a single Dall's porpoise.

NORTHERN RIGHT WHALE DOLPHIN			
9/29	3-4	20 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
10/12	250	21 mi. SW Cypress Pt.	OSE
Associated with 250 Pacific white-sided dolphins.			

COMMON DOLPHIN			
9/26	12	17 mi. SSW Cypress Pt.	NL
10/8	500	3.5 mi. W Bixby Creek	JW
10/10	900	4 mi. SW Pt. Pinos	MBW

LONG-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN			
9/30	1800	3 mi. SW Cypress Pt.	OSE
9/30	1500	4 mi. W Pt. Lobos	OSE

These were two distinct schools that merged into one large combination.

10/1	2000	5 mi. W Pt. Joe	OSE
Along with 4 humpback whales			
10/4	250	1 mi. N Lover's Pt.	OSE
10/6	2500	10 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	SHJ
10/14	1000	6.5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	OSE
10/17	1300	5.5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	OSE

SHORT-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN			
10/1	300	9 mi. W Cypress Pt.	OSE
With one Pacific white-sided dolphin and one humpback whale.			

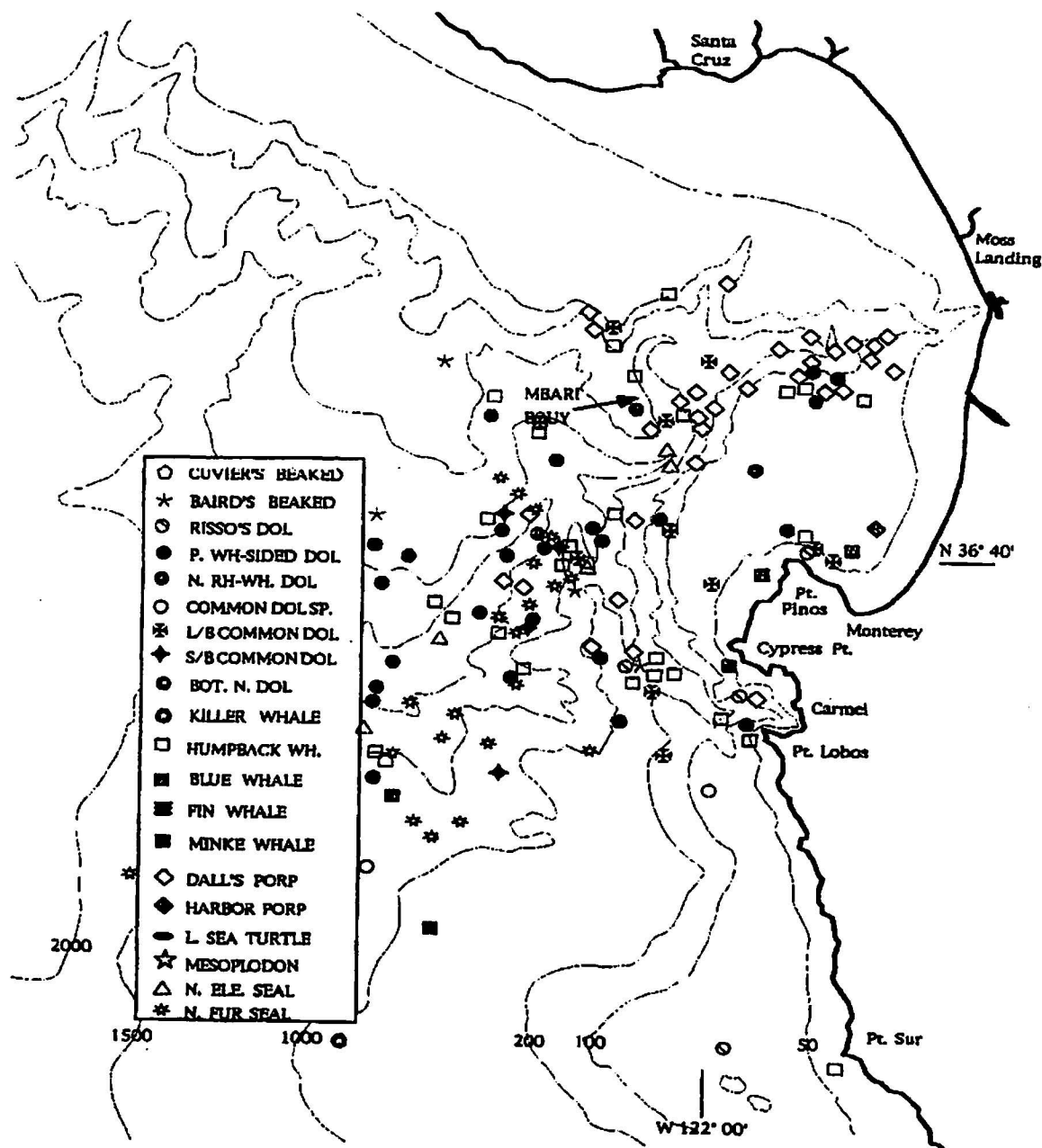
10/6	2000	12 mi. W Pt. Pinos	SHJ
10/10	2	7 mi. WNW Pt. Pinos	OSE

DALL'S PORPOISE			
There were 26 sightings of 5-20 in groups of 4-6 scattered throughout the bay, mostly along canyon edges, with a majority sighted west of Moss Landing.			

DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.	DATE	NUMBER OF ANIMALS	LOCATION	OBS.
HARBOR PORPOISE				NORTHERN FUR SEAL			
10/10	6	2.5 mi. NNW Monterey Harbor	OSE	There were 18 sightings of up to 6 in one day, mostly as singles, but sometimes in groups of up to 3. They were found mostly offshore 10 or more miles. On 9/29 a male was seen, only the second in 13 years for these records.			
NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL							
9/26	1 +1	12 mi. W Cypress Pt.	OSE				
9/27	1	5 mi. W Pt. Pinos	OSE				
10/10	1 + 1	5 mi. NW Pt. Pinos	OSE				

KEY TO OBSERVERS

MG=M. Giblin, TJ=T. Jones, NL=N. Lemon, BL=B. Lucas, MBW=Monterey Bay Whalewatch, DR=D.Reins, SHJ=Shearwater Journeys, OSE=Oceanic Society Expeditions, JW=J. Williamson



1996 ACS Conference

(continued from Page 3)

Program at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, spoke on the effects of the sound "smog" in the world's oceans on cetaceans. He played whale songs as well as the sound of just one ship passing by. He also explained the "Hey Baby" theory of whale songs as well as that of using their sounds to map the oceans for travel. Dr. Darlene Ketten, assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology of Harvard Medical School and research director of the Three-Dimensional Imaging Service of Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, a Harvard specialty hospital, then explained the evolution and comparisons of ears, both human and cetacean. She spoke on causes of hearing

the take of killer whales for aquariums and marine parks. He gave details on specific releases of orcas such as Keiko (Willy). Mike Glenn, curator of marine mammals at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, then went on to describe some of those aquariums and marine parks and just how they care for and keep their orcas. Shifting from captive cetaceans to animals in the wild, Dr. Bernd Wursig, Professor of Marine Mammalogy and Director of Marine Mammal Research Program at Texas A&M University, College Station at Galveston, talked about swimming with dolphins. For the average citizen, this is an illegal activity, but for the few lucky ones, research allows them this activity. Some studies conducted in New Zealand shows some of the best methods for approaching dolphins benignly, causing the least problems.

For the workshops, John Heyning spoke on marine mammal strandings, Dave Wiley spoke on "Truth, justice, and the American way. The role of science in the formation of public policy," and Kim Milliken (with ACS) conducted mini-workshops on effective teaching methods. Later in the afternoon Karen Steuer explained methods on

getting heard in Washington, Bob Brownell discussed whale kills and science in the Soviet Union and Russian, Denise Leone gave lessons on an instructional program design from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and Mark Schilling showed viewers the intricacies of the Internet and how to find cetacean information that way. Sunday's workshops included Bernd Wursig explaining needs and research opportunities in marine mammalogy field studies, an explanation and demonstration by Michael Williamson of WhaleNet, "Interactive Education," Marine mammal rehabilitation issues conducted by Mike Glenn, Ken Balcomb's further

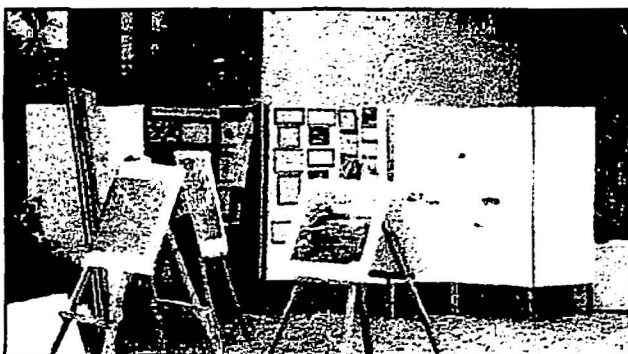


ACS Curriculum Director, Kim Milliken discusses teaching methods.

discussion on Orca populations in the Pacific Northwest, a presentation by the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium on whale conservation issues for the classroom, another presentation by the National Geographic "critter-cam" crew, and whale watching as an effective teaching tool with Carole Carlson and Mason Weinrich.

There were several field trips available, including NRAD/NOSC and Stephen Birch Aquarium, the Marine Mammal Lab at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, the Marine Mammal Care Center, and a Sea Kayaking Trip as well as a reception Friday evening at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and a banquet at the DoubleTree on Saturday.

The conference was enjoyed by all and everyone left with a sense of accomplishment.



Posters on display and items for sale.

loss and damage and those comparisons as well. These comparisons were carried to pinnipeds, not just human and cetacean. In accordance to stresses, Dr. Carole Carlson, cetacean biologist with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and adjunct senior scientist with the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown, MA, discussed the ever growing popularity of whale watching and where that occupation will be going in the future. She also spoke about the future of this particular business. What is needed is a balance between the educational value and economic rewards and the potential negative impacts to individuals and groups of whales as the industry continues to expand.

Going on to whale and human interactions, Ken Balcomb, executive director for the Center for Whale Research in Friday Harbor, Washington, discussed



Conference attendees enjoy a workshop conducted by ACS Curriculum

IATTC Survives

(continued from page 3)

reports of the International Review Panel, as well as speeding the development of more selective fishing gear and methods.

Representing the Humane Society, and an opponent to the Administration's bill, the second speaker's brief statement focused on strict enforcement of the infractions. She noted that such enforcement could greatly increase the IATTC's treasury. She alleged there could be an increase of over 200% in income as projected in the 1998 budget and 365% more than the FY 1995 actual government contributions. No mention was made of the legislative situation.

The third to speak was a representative of The Fishermen's Coalition, and a tuna boat owner based in San Diego. She is a strong supporter of the Administration's bill, stating that it would have passed in the Senate, had it been "allowed" to come up on the floor, saying "...[T]his is not a battle over a can of tunafish vs. 'flipper.' This is a battle to establish the ground rules on how we solve environmental issues globally..." She was very explicit in criticizing the techniques of the Coalition opposing the bill and the various allegations this group used to publicize its position.

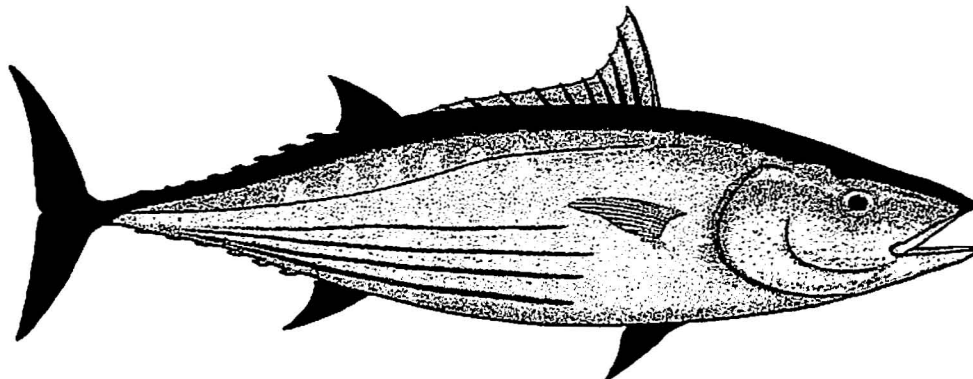
Earth Island Institute's representative, and the most vocal of the bill's opponents, was the last to speak. He first gave an extemporaneous response to the previous

speaker. He later submitted written comments that were almost identical. He said "...I anticipate changes in the U.S. elections which will likely have the effect of making it easier to block passage of the Panama Declaration in Congress." He also said, "...this legislation, in my opinion is dead and is going to stay dead." He did note their agreement with the concept of reducing bycatch, and "...we do agree to move forward on this issue in many areas."

The phrase "dolphin safe" was mentioned only once by the last speaker.

Editors Note: Barbara has indicated that if any of the members of the ACS Monterey Bay Chapter are interested in the above four texts, plus the Mexican and joint texts, she may be able to offer them at \$1.00 in advance, by writing to Barbara Britten at 801 J St., #64, Davis, CA 95616, or calling (916) 758-6786.

(Barbara Britten is Marine Environment Consultant for the ACS Monterey Bay Chapter and provides our chapter with current reports on conservation and environmental public policy issues. Barbara was ACS National's representative in Washington D.C. for 14 years before moving to the Davis, CA area. She was appointed by President Clinton in 1994 as the sole environmentalist on the four-member panel of Commissioners who head the U.S. delegation of the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission [IATTC])



Don't forget, due to Thanksgiving, the next meeting of the ACS Monterey Bay Chapter will be on Thursday, December 5, 1996, at 7:30 p.m.

Neaty Keen Websites

Mark Schilling, ACS Board Member, gave a very informative workshop on the Internet and marine mammal related sites at the ACS Conference. Listed here are some of those sites. Each of these pages have links to others, so there are literally hundreds of marine mammal links available.

Tales of the Whales:

whales.prodigy.com/index.html

ACS Monterey:

www.redshift.com/~estarr/acs/

Protected Marine Species:

www.rtis.com/nat/user/elsberry/marspec.html

Gray Whale Tutorial:

198.188.248.11/whale/whale0.html

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary:

www.nos.noaa.gov/nmsp/hinms/

Marine Mammal Center:

www.tnmc.org/

Virtual Whale:

www.sfu.ca/~michaec/whales/index.htm

Center for Coastal Studies:

www.provincetown.com/coastalstudies/index.html

Whale Watcher Expert System:

vvv.com/ai/demos/whale.html

Unit 23 Pacific Marine Mammals:

kingfish.ssp.nmfs.gov/olo/unit23.html

Marine Mammals of the Gulf of Mexico:

www.rtis.com/nat/user/elsberry/marspec/tmmsn/mmgulf.html

Society for Marine Mammology:

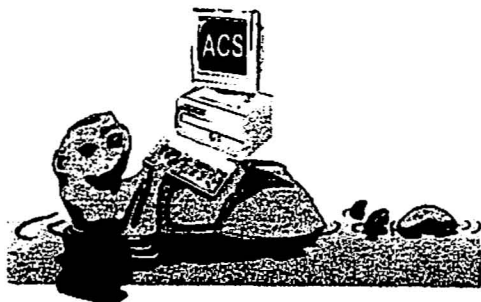
pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~smm/

WhaleNet:

whale.wheelock.edu/

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MARMAM Tidbits



Internet Goodies

(continued from Page 7)

National Marine Fisheries Service:
kingfish.ssp.nmfs.gov/

Soc. for Marine Mammology Archive:
members.aol.com/marmamnews/dates.html

Whale Museum Adopt an Orca:
www.pacificrim.net/~bydesign/adopt.html

Cetacean Research Unit Adopt a Whale:
www.Friend.ly.Net/user-homepages/b/birdman/adopt.htm

IWC Adopt a Whale Page:
webcom.com/~iwcwww/whale_adoption/adopt.html

Scotland Dolphin Adoption:
penny.ibmpcug.co.uk/~ecs/culture/cult10.htm

Tirpitz: the WWW source of whaling information:
tirpitz.ibg.uit.no/www/ss.html

Each of these address start with <http://>, and are copied as given to me. If you have trouble with an address, it may be that your browser does not support that particular site. However, these addresses link to each other as well as many others, so if one doesn't work, another may. Have fun exploring.

And don't forget, the editor's e-mail is:
leos@mbay.net

When poking around in the addresses of the previous article, I found a resource site that is fantastic. Some of you already know about it, but for those that are getting started on the Internet, here it is. It is MARMAM, which stands for Marine Mammals Research and Conservation Discussion. It is a subscription service where questions, opinions, and discussions as well as marine mammal related articles are posted. Here is how one subscribes:

In your e-mail, go to your outgoing message (sending e-mail) and send the message which says subscribe marmam Yourfirstname Yourlastname to listserv@uvvm.uvic.ca. This must be exact or it will kick back to you. If this happens, check your sending address and try again. The speed in which this happens is incredible. Then just follow the directions given to you for accessing the FAQ (frequently asked questions) and away you go.

Here is a one of the items I picked up for November 1996:

By PETER JAMES SPIELMANN
Associated Press Writer
SYDNEY, Australia (AP) -- The penguins, seals and whales of Antarctica survive by eating krill, and they share their food with a protein-hungry world. Humans scoop up tons of the shrimp-like creatures each year for their own use -- as fish food, fish bait and as a delicacy for seafood lovers who savor its crab-like taste.

Harvesting of krill is still unregulated in the Australian Antarctic waters of the southeast Indian Ocean. But while Antarctic nations provisionally approved setting an annual limit on fishing in these waters, the proposed limit has raised debate over whether the limit is too lax.

Under the proposal by the Australian Antarctic Division -- expected to be approved Friday -- the krill catch will be limited to a generous 850,000 tons a year -- about seven times the amount that krill harvesters around the world take in every year.

Greenpeace and some scientists are uneasy about setting a limit that high on a species that forms the basis of the entire Antarctic food chain. They point to the

over-harvesting and mismanagement of other species such as fur seals, whales, salmon and bluefin tuna.

"As an environmentalist I have to be bothered by new types of catches," said Izgrev Topkov, the secretary general of the U.N. Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species.

Most of the fishing trawlers harvesting krill come from Russia, South Korea, Poland, Ukraine, Chile and Japan.

Australia does not fish krill commercially, but the Australian Antarctic Division suggests it might start. If Australia took in the full 850,000 tons of krill from the Indian Ocean each year, for example, it could make an annual \$200 million, the division says.

Harvest limits on other ocean fisheries are 1.7 million tons in the South Atlantic, and 500,000 tons in the southwest Indian Ocean.

Bill Fraser, of Montana State University, said studies show that global warming has cut into krill stocks off the Antarctic peninsula, in turn affecting the food supply for penguins, seals, and other predators.

"It would seem prudent to err on the side of caution at this point unless they feel they truly have a handle on these complex issues," said Fraser, who has been studying marine ecosystems in the area.

But other scientists defend the Australian plan as conservative, flexible and ecologically sound; they say harvesters will take only a tiny fraction of the half-billion tons of krill that swarm around Antarctica.

Stephen Nicol, the Australian Antarctic Division's chief krill biologist, says that under the plan, fishing would be reduced or suspended if krill stocks or predator species declined.

In Japanese markets, whole frozen krill tail meat sells for \$3.45 a pound, Nicol said. "They have a crab-like taste, fairly mild. They're really quite pleasant," he said.

Nicol said demand for these crustaceans will only increase as new industrial uses are found. The shells, which are currently turned into fish food pellets, contain chitin, a cellulose-like bio-polymer that is expected to have many industrial uses. Krill also contain enzymes that have potential use in medicines, he said.

"Dolphin Death Act" Defeated

(continued from Page 3)

tuna" explained David Phillips, Director of Earth Island Institute. "More than 90% of the world's canned tuna markets are now 'dolphin safe', according to figures from the United Nations. The Mexican, Venezuelan, and Columbian governments must realize that the technique of setting nets on dolphins to catch tuna is cruel, unnecessary, and will never be acceptable to the American public. Now that the "Dolphin Death Act" bill is dead, it is time to go back and seek a consensus of ways to continue to protect dolphins, the marine environment, and encourage tuna fishermen to fish in a truly dolphin-safe manner."



ACS MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER ANNUAL JANUARY GRAY WHALE WHALEWATCHING TRIP

(Peak of Gray Whale migration!!)

SATURDAY JANUARY 11, 1996

7:00 a.m. ~ 9:00 a.m.

Board at Monterey Sportfishing at 6:30 a.m.

**COST: \$15 ACS MEMBERS
\$20 NON-ACS MEMBERS**

**FOR RESERVATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT: DEBBIE TERNULLO AT 373-4281**

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Chapter: #24 Monterey

Membership Information

The objectives of the American Cetacean Society include engaging in educational, conservational, and scientific pursuits for the purpose of expanding scientific knowledge of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and related creatures. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at Hopkins Marine Station. Meetings and activities feature cetacea and various aspects of the marine environment. For additional information concerning ACS membership, contact Kathy Whittaker, 373-2274.

Soundings

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



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